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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1836.

[NUMBER 1.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, and sent to subscribers on the following

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

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Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

A CASE OF WHITE SWELLING,

WITH ITS TREATMENT AND CURE.

On the 24th of October, 1833, I was called to see the son of Thomas Everett, a respectable farmer of this county, [Davidson, Tenn.], seven miles from Nashville. Mr. Everett informed me that about three weeks previous to that time, his son, while playing with his brothers, apparently in good health, was all at once seized with a violent pain in his leg, and, crying, he said his leg was broken; an examination followed, and there were no marks of external violence that could be discovered, nor was the bone fractured. The pain remained very violent; the ankle became somewhat tumified, without alteration of the color of the skin. A tumor on each side of the ankle arose and burst in the course of eight or ten days, which discharged a great quantity of cancerous, ichorous matter; the wounds rapidly increased in size, so that when I was called, the flesh on both sides of his ankle was so much destroyed, as well as the sinovial membranes, that the larger part of the ankle bones, and the lower part of the leg bones, were uncovered for at least an inch and a half; and owing to the great relaxation of the remaining parts, the light could be easily seen through his ankle, there being only the tendo-achilles and the tendons on the upper part of the foot that keep it fast to the leg; and the great and rapid destruction of the soft parts, made the parents of the little sufferer fear that each time they unbandaged his foot, it would drop off. Another large ulcer, on the upper part of the foot, laid the tendons bare. In examining this terrible wound, I laid my fingers below the platella, and two large streams of purulent matter issued on each side of his ankle. The whole leg appeared tumified and gangrenous, the veins being black and distended upon the leg; the edges of the wound were bathed with a dark blood oozing out of the veins partly eat out. The little boy complained

of a severe pain in his right shoulder; his body extremely emaciated; a hectic, feeble pulse, and a colliquative diarrhœa, were, to all appearance, fast hastening him to a not far distant grave.—The smell of the matter discharged was so offensive that I had to leave the room even before I had thoroughly examined my patient; but I thought that it was impossible that any one could recover from so low a state, or even to arrest the rapid strides of that cruel disease. My opinion, as to the probability of the recovery of the patient, was asked by the anxious parents, and I gave it as my belief that he would die. Mr. Everett then asked me to do what I could; and, at his request, I left medicines and directions as follows:—

A tea to be drank, composed of the composition powders 1 part; golden seal 1 do.; poplar bark 1 do.; and 1 part of button snake root, (*Liatris Squarosa*), made strong; and of this to take half a tea-cupful from four to six times a day. After bathing the sound parts of the leg in No. 6, and the sores in the juice of burdock leaves, we laid a piece of linen over the wounds; we had a poultice of astringent vegetables prepared, and with it his whole leg and foot were wrapped up as hot as he could bear it. The next day I returned, and found that his pulse was much better; I then administered to him an emetic, which operated finely; the same treatment as above was followed, and the best care was taken of the boy; and every attention that human assistance and nurses could afford, was rendered him. By pursuing this plan every day (with the emetic) for a whole week, he was much mended; the disease was evidently checked; no more pain in his shoulder, and his general health much improved. The emetic was only administered every other day for another week, then twice the third week, then occasionally afterwards. The cure of the boy would have been very rapid had it not been for his awkwardness when he began to be able to go about. His frequent falls would cause his foot to be put out of place, and retard the cure. Several bones and pieces of bones fell out, when the wound finally cicatrized. In the meantime two ulcers were formed on the leg, out of which two pieces of bone sloughed off and came out, when his leg also healed. A tumor had also risen on his right shoulder; though indolent, its soft and undulating appearance to the touch, showed that there was matter. It was lanced, a small quantity of watery matter came out, and shortly afterwards a small piece of the *scapula*, or shoulder blade, was also taken out, when this immediately healed. This cure was effected in less than six weeks! I attended

him from the 24th of October to the 24th of November, pretty regularly, at which time he was so near well that further attendance was deemed unnecessary. A few months afterwards I had occasion to pass that way, and curiosity led me to examine the boy's foot, and see how stiff the ankle joint was. He walked across the room without limping in the least, which astonished me, as I supposed that the ankylose must cause some lameness; but, on examining it, I found, to my great surprise, that the motion of the joint was very little impaired! Such are the wonderful resources of nature, when not tortured by the meddling of modern butchering and false learning.

I have attended several cases of this dreadful malady with great success, of which I propose to give you a history at some future time.

Yours, &c.,

D. F. NARDIN.

[From the Botanic Luminary.]
AN INTERESTING CASE.

In December last, I had occasion to go to Toledo on some business. On my way, I tarried at Adrian, where I fell in company with Dr. Putnam, from Vermont, who accompanied me to that place. We called on a friend at Whiteford, who informed us that there was a lady in that village, very low, supposed to be at the point of death; she had been already surrendered to the Grim Messenger by her attending physician, and was considered by all who saw her to be beyond the reach of medical aid. My friend, Mr. Briggs, requested us to go with him and see the sick woman, — peradventure it might be in our power at least to mitigate her sufferings, if no more. On our entering the room where the patient was confined, every thing appeared gloomy and sad. A general silence reigned, and despair seemed depicted in every countenance at the expected dissolution. At the bed side of the sick I beheld a painful scene, — the heaving breast, the sunken eye, and the ghastly look; a robust young woman, of a strong constitution, surrounded by a group of friends, who, in less than thirty-six hours, had seen her reduced to the brink of the grave, without any prospect of recovery.

This patient, a short time previous to this, had come off a long journey, and taken a severe cold, which, together with the fatigue of travelling, resulted in a *miscarriage*, — after being pregnant for five or six months. She had passed through three convulsion fits, and had strong symptoms of soon having more, — had been blind about twenty-four hours, was deaf, speechless, and in excruciating pain. She was much swollen, attended with obstinate constipation of the bowels, and obstruction of the urethra canal. I requested the attending physician, Dr. Green, to be sent for, who came immediately. I inquired if he had done for this patient all he could? He replied yes, and said "that it was extremely doubtful whether she would recover under the best of treatment; that

if I could help the patient it was my duty to do so; and that if she died under my care, he would not blame me, nor censure my cause."

Under these circumstances, by the persuasions of all interested in the case, I at length with the assistance of Dr. Putnam, consented to render the patient all the aid in my power. Having but few medicines with me, and being at considerable distance from home, so that it was inconvenient for me to get more, I was not prepared to undertake so difficult a case.

However, we commenced with giving two or three doses of Dr. Thomson's composition powders, and applying a warm stone to the feet wrapped in wet cloths. We bathed the abdominal region with rheumatic drops, and applied warm flannels to the body, which produced a gentle perspiration. We then mixed up more of the composition, strained off a tea cup-ful, and added umbil, swamp cabbage, and lobelia, of each a half tea spoon-ful finely pulverised, stirred together and well sweetened; this compound was given in tea spoon-ful doses every five or ten minutes, until the patient vomited freely. After we got through with this operation, we made an infusion of red raspberry leaves, poured off a pint, and added one tea spoon-ful of cayenne, one of nerve powder, one of swamp cabbage, one of cholic root, and one of rheumatic drops, all compounded together, and given in half tea spoon-ful doses every two or three hours. We also had injections prepared of the same articles, and administered two or three times during the night. The next morning we could perceive but very little alteration; symptoms were a little better, which encouraged us to persevere. In addition to the articles and means already named and used, we procured some queen of the meadow roots, made a strong decoction of them, strained off the tea, and gave it to the patient several times a day, especially when she wanted drink.

By persevering in the use of these means, — repeating the emetics every other day, and giving the injections every three or four hours, varying our prescriptions and doses according to the symptoms, — we at length succeeded in removing all obstructions; our remedies produced a free perspiration, induced sleep, reduced the swelling, evacuated the urethra, and opened the bowels; the patient revived, took some notice of those around her, and the third or fourth day she called for drink. But her reason was not restored; she was very delirious, talked much and at random, would not eat any thing, or take much medicine, — was very obstinate, and could not be persuaded to do any thing contrary to her own inclinations. Notwithstanding these circumstances, it was surprising to see her recover; she gained much faster than we anticipated when we first commenced giving our medicines. Her appetite improved so, that we persuaded her to take some food, which was very requisite at this time. She continued to gain so fast, that we concluded it would be safe to leave her in the care of her friends on the

fifth day. We then made some laxative bitters, composed of bayberry, unicorn, kerkuma, and bitter root, equal parts, all pulverised, and well mixed. These bitters we ordered to be given in tea spoon-ful doses three times a day; the use of the other medicines to be continued, but not to give them so frequent as formerly. By this time she refused to take any kind of medicine; of course there was not so much given, neither did she gain as fast as she would have done, could we have persuaded her to take more medicine.

On the fifth day we prepared to take our leave; we left a supply of medicines, with directions how they should be used, and pursued our journey with hearts flowing with gratitude to the Author of our being, for providing a remedy for our pains, an antidote for our diseases, and for communicating them to us through the Patriarch Thomson.

During our attendance on Mrs. Carrier, Dr. Green, who was the physician of that place, and who was first called in the foregoing case, (his treatment we defer giving at this time), was an honorable member of the Medical Faculty. He manifested much friendly feeling on the occasion, and treated us with much civility, and appeared pleased at the prospect of the recovery of our patient. Such courtesy is seldom exhibited towards us by that class of society.

The foregoing case gave the Thomsonian cause a powerful impulse in that section of the country. More than a dozen persons were in consequence converted from the old mineral reductive system to the Botanic practice, by this extraordinary cure. Such circumstances make us more and more sanguine in the superiority of this new and abused practice, and we think justify us in our zeal in its behalf.

EDITOR.

The following letter was received soon after we returned home, and will go to establish the above facts. We subjoin it for this purpose:—

"Whiteford, Jan. 2, 1836.

"DEAR SIR:—When you left us on the 18th of December, it was understood that I should write you respecting the situation of my son's wife. I now announce to you, with heartfelt satisfaction, that she is entirely well,—that is, she has recovered so far that we consider her out of danger, her reason has been perfect for ten days past, she sleeps easy and regular, her appetite is good, and she begins to do some light work. After you left us we could not persuade her to partake of the nerve powders till Sunday morning following; at that time we induced her to believe there was no cayenne in them, and after that she took them willingly. We are fully persuaded that your practice has saved the woman, being blessed by superior power. We have, gentlemen, to render you heartfelt thanks for this most extraordinary cure. Through your agency we have found balm in Gilead, and a physician there. To express our feelings for your kindness, your care, your watching,

and your steadfast perseverance, we cannot find words. All that we can further say is, that you may live long and happy lives, and be instrumental in doing much good to your fellow men.

With sentiments of ardent respect,

I am, gentlemen, your ob't serv't,

BRAINERD CARRIER."

[From Dr. Southwood Smith's Philosophy of Health.]

HUMAN LIFE.

The two lives are born at different periods; and the one is in active operation before the other is even in existence. The first action observable in the embryo, is a minute pulsating point. It is the young heart propelling its infant stream. Before brain, or nerve, or muscle can be distinguished, the heart is in existence and in action; that is, the apparatus of the organic function of the circulation is built up, and is in operation before there is any trace of an animal organ. Arteries and veins circulate the blood, capillary vessels receive the vital fluid, and out of it is formed brain and vessel; the organs of the animal, no less than the various substances that compose the organs of the organic life. The organic is not only anterior to the animal life, but it is by the action of the organic that existence is given to the animal life. The organic life is born at the first moment of existence; the animal life not until a period comparatively distant; the epoch emphatically denominated the period of birth, namely, the period when the new being is detached from its mother, when it first comes into contact with external objects, when it carries on all the functions of its economy by its own organs, and consequently enjoys independent existence.

The functions of the organic life are perfect at once. The heart contracts as well, the arteries secrete as well, and the respiratory organs work as well the first moment they begin to act, as at any subsequent period. They require no teaching from experience, and they profit nothing from its lessons. On the contrary, the operations of the brain, and the actions of the voluntary muscles, feeble and uncertain at the first, acquire strength by slow degrees, and attain their ultimate perfection only at the adult age. How indistinct and confused the first sensations of the infant! Before it acquires accuracy, precision and truth, how immense the labor spent upon prescription! Sensations are succeeded by ideas; sensations and ideas coalesce with sensations and ideas; combinations thus formed, suggest other combinations previously formed, and these a third, and the third a fourth, and so is constituted a continuous train of thought. But the infantile associations between sensation, between idea and idea, and between sensations and ideas, are, to a certain extent, incorrect, to a still greater extent inadequate; and the misconception necessarily resulting from this early imperfection in the intellectual operations, is capable of correction,

only, by subsequent and more extended impressions. During its waking hours, a large portion of the time of the infant is spent in receiving impressions which come to it every instant from all directions, and which it stores up in its little treasury; but a large portion is also consumed in the far more serious and difficult business of discrimination and corrections. Could any man after having attained the age of manhood, reverse the order of the course through which he has passed; could he, with the power of observation, together with the experience that belong to manhood, retrace with perfect exactness every step of his sentient existence, from the age of forty to the moment that the air first came in contact with his body, at the moment of his leaving his maternal dwelling, among the truths he would learn, the most interesting, if not the most surprising, would be those which relate to the manner in which he dwelt with his earliest impressions; with the mode in which he combined them, recalled them, laid them by for future use; made his first general deduction, observed what subsequent experience had taught to be conformable, and what not conformable, to this general inference; his emotions, on detecting his first errors, and his contrasted feelings on discovering those comprehensive truths, the certainty of which became confirmed by every subsequent impression. — Thus to live backwards would be, in fact, to go through the analysis of the intellectual combinations, and, consequently, to obtain a perfect insight into the constitution of the mind; and among the curious results which would then become manifest, perhaps few would appear more surprising than the true action of the senses. The eye, when first impressed by light, does not perceive the objects that it reflects; the ear, when first impressed by sound, does not distinguish the sonorous body. When the operation for cataract has been successfully performed in a person born blind, the eye immediately is sensible to light; but the impression of light does not immediately give information relative to the properties of bodies. It is gradually, not instantaneously; it is even by slow degrees that luminous objects are discerned with distinctness and accuracy; to see, to hear, to smell, to taste, to touch, are processes which appear to be performed simultaneously, and which actually are performed with astonishing rapidity in a person who observes them in himself; but they were not always performed thus rapidly; they are processes acquired, businesses learned; processes acquired and learned, not without the cost of many efforts and much labor. But the senses afford merely the materials for the intellectual operations of memory, combination, comparison, discrimination, induction, — operations, the progress of which is so slow, that they acquire precision, energy and comprehensiveness, only by the culture of years.

FREEDOM. — No man is free who does not command himself. — *Pythagoras.*

AIR.

It is probable that three-fourths of the disorders to which the constitution is liable, in this climate, originate in, or are at least considerably influenced by, aerial transitions, and therefore, we cannot be too much on our guard against this source of danger. Our principal defences against these atmospheric changes, so rapid and destructive, will be pointed out in subsequent articles, particularly in those on clothing and bathing. A few observations, however, on other points connected with air, may be properly introduced here.

If the natural state of our atmosphere be variable, and if certain parts of the surface of the earth and even animal life itself necessarily tend to vitiate the composition of the air, our own folly or the imperious customs of civilized life give ten-fold force to those unavoidable enemies of our health. It is not on the husbandman, the soldier, or the sailor, who are so much exposed to the conflicting elements, that their malignant influence principally fall: it is on the delicate female, the pale mechanic, and the sedentary artist, who add artificial to natural extremes, — fly from one to the other, — wither under the effect of this imprudence, — and then rail against the climate as the cause of all their miseries!

In the crowded ball room, heated to a tropical temperature, the sensitive belle and the effeminate beau carry exercise to the extreme of exhaustion, and in this state rush fearlessly forth under the gloomy skies of a hyperborean night! The ghastly train of consumptions which annually follow this imprudent conduct, have no premonitory effect in preventing a repetition of it. Youth has ever been, and ever will be, prodigal of life; and while the sick bed and tomb lie masked under the seductive features of the theatre, the ball room, and the drawing room, they will continue to be thickly tenanted by premature decay and self-destroyed beauty.

Against the effects of these nocturnal exposures, which society will not guard, the medical philosopher can only propose such checks as a knowledge of the animal economy suggests:

There are five circumstances to be attended to when we are subjected to the influence of the night air, viz.: — 1st, The condition of the body before going out of doors. 2d, The defence of the body's surface while exposed. 3d, The defence of the lungs. 4th, The exercise on the way. 5th, The conduct to be observed on getting home.

1st. The condition of the body ought to be as warm as possible, short of perspiration. Many lives are annually lost by the ill-judged caution of lingering about the halls and doors of heated apartments, till the body is cool, before venturing into the air. In this state it is highly susceptible of the baleful influence of the night. It would be better to issue forth even with some perspiration on the surface, than to wait till the system is chilled. The greater degree of animal heat in which we are, on going first into

the night air, the less injury will we sustain from it.

2d. As this injury is received through the medium of the skin and the lungs, it is quite evident that the safeguard of the former must be warm clothing, constructed of materials that are bad conductors of heat, as woollen, cotton, and similar articles.

3d. The defence of the lungs themselves has been hitherto strangely overlooked; though it requires but a moment's reflection to be convinced of the vast importance of this consideration. In the space of one minute the delicate structure of the lungs is exposed to an atmospheric transition of perhaps thirty or forty degrees, from the over-heated theatre to the freezing midnight blast. Is it not strange that we should have been so very solicitous about heap- ing fold over fold on the surface of the body, while we never dreamed of the extended surface of the lungs, which we left completely exposed? Is it not still more strange, that this should have been forgotten, when daily observation shows that the lungs were the organs which, nine times out of ten, suffered by these exposures? It cannot, therefore, be too strongly enforced, the necessity of guarding the organs of respiration from the direct influence of the night air, by such muffling about the face as may not only detain a portion of the air expired from the lungs each time, but communicate a degree of warmth to each inhalation of atmospheric air. A large net, such, for example, as is vulgarly called a comforter, folded loosely around the face, will receive a portion of caloric or heat from the breath at each expiration, which portion will be communicated to the current of air rushing into the lungs at each inspiration, and thus a frigid nocturnal atmosphere is, to some considerable degree, obviated.

4th. As we proceed into the air, while the body is warm, so we should, by a brisk pace, endeavor to keep up that degree of animal heat with which we sat out, and that determination to the surface, which is so effectual in preventing affections of any internal organ.

Lastly. As the sudden transition from a heated apartment to a frigid atmosphere must, in some degree, produce a determination to the centre, and more or less check the perspiratory process, some warm and moderately stimulating liquid should always be taken before going to bed, in order that the functions of the skin and the balance of the circulation may be restored. — [*Johnson on the Liver.*]

John Wilks is "werry ill." We received the following reply to our affectionate enquiry we made the other day: How is the Member for Boston? Why he has nothing to "Boast-on." What is his complaint? A *cat-arrh*. How has he been treated? With a *cat-aplasm*. We did not pursue our *cat-egories* further. — [*Hampshire Gazette.*]

[From the Flag of the Union.]

MR. EDITOR:—In order to prove that the Thomsonian or Botanic System of Medicine is not confined to the low, the poor, the vulgar, or the ignorant part of the community, (as has often been asserted), we would invite the public attention to the extract of Gov. Lumpkin's letter, addressed to Dr. Thomas, also the accompanying certificates, all of which will be found below.

Notwithstanding this practice is continually gaining ground, yet we have nothing to lose, but much to gain, by a more close examination of its merits. We therefore court investigation, and wish all to do as many have already done, that is, to test it fairly. Let this be done, and the result is obvious; the decision will undoubtedly be in favor of the Botanic System. Dr. Waterhouse, who stands second to none in the medical profession, observes, "In one thing every man must and will agree, for it admits of no dispute. It will be admitted as an axiom, namely, that the Thomsonian Practice has been diffused through New England between fifteen and twenty years, and still maintains its credit; and every year its roots strike deeper, and its branches spread wider and wider." It has been diffused through Alabama several years, and still maintains its credit; its branches are spreading to the North, to the South, to the East, and to the West. Yea, and they will continue to spread, until they convert the earth, and offer to the afflicted family of Adam a balmy covert from the blighting influence of disease.

A. J. HOLCOMBE.

The annexed certificate will show the superior efficacy of the Botanic remedies.

CERTIFICATE.

Extract of a letter written by Wilson Lumpkin, Ex-Governor of Georgia, dated

ATHENS, March 7, 1836.

Dr. B. R. THOMAS, — Dear Sir: I am truly gratified to hear of your success; I wish you success because I believe you merit it, — and because I believe you cannot succeed without conferring benefits on the community.

Upon the theory and practice of medicine, I have never bestowed sufficient thought to entitle my opinions to any weight, in settling the controversy now going on, between you and your Botanic friends on the one side, and your opponents on the other. I am under the necessity, however, of admitting my partiality to the Botanic Practice, because when sick and in pain, your medicine makes me feel better from the moment I swallow it; and the old practice is, (in most cases), to increase the unpleasant sensations many fold, before any relief may be expected. Indeed your prescriptions for me, in several cases, have given me greater confidence in your medicines, as well as your skill in using them. Moreover, I can bear testimony to the immediate happy effects of the Botanic Practice, in cases which have come under my observation. Your friend and ob't serv't,

WILSON LUMPKIN.

BOARDING SCHOOLS AND CONSUMPTION.

✓ The following sensible article we copy from the New York Knickerbocker. We commend it to the careful perusal of those who may have children at the institutions spoken of, for the facts herein detailed are lamentably true to a greater extent than is generally believed : —

Crowded boarding schools for young girls are quite numerous; but to many of them, I fear, they prove the portals of the grave. At these schools, with few exceptions, but little pains are taken to develop the physical powers of the scholars, and the chief attention is given to improving the intellect rapidly. Often an amount of mental labor is required of young and delicate girls, sufficient to impair the very strongest constitution. All the rewards and praises, all the hopes and wishes of parents and teachers, are for intellectual progress. True, they exercise a little; but the *kind* allowed them is often a task, and is nearly useless. They occasionally walk abroad with their teachers, with a regulated, stereotyped pace, that does them little or no good. Plays and exercises that they naturally enjoy, and which call into action and benefit the whole system,—that enlarge the chest, and strengthen the muscles of the back, and enable them to support the spine,—are considered rude and improper. Hence, we see young ladies, return from these schools, with minds much improved, perhaps, but with chests no larger than when they left home, and not unfrequently one shoulder more elevated than the other, and with some curvature of the spine. — Let it not be said, in refutation of this statement, that girls in boarding schools look animated and healthy. This is not generally true, — and if it were, it would not prove that the course pursued in such schools was proper. The evil effects which result from the want of exercise are not witnessed immediately in youth.

In a few years, a delicate girl thus educated, from a little more exposure of fatigue than she has been accustomed to, or even from the mental anxiety and conflict of feelings not unusual to young ladies who mix in society, she grows feeble, a slight cough ensues, scarcely noticed for a while; shortness of breath is experienced on a little exercise, and though the countenance appears brilliant and animated,

“T is the hectic spot that flushes there,”

and the work of death has already commenced. In a few months she sinks into the grave, and the newspapers announce that an interesting young lady, the pride of her parents and friends, whose mind had been improved by the most careful education, has been cut off by consumption. But such announcements, though frequently seen, make but little impression upon the community, and convey no warning to the minds of those who have the guardianship of young ladies. ✓

PETRIFICATION OF ANIMAL SUBSTANCES.

SEGATO'S DISCOVERY.—The world is now to be set all agog with the discovery of an Italian, named Signor Segato, recently deceased, who found out the means, during his life-time, of perfectly *petrifying* animal substances. The account, furnished by the Hon. R. H. Wilde, and published in the Southern Medical Journal, states that : —

The process of Segato acts upon entire animals, as well as upon their separate parts. It endues them with a consistency perfectly stony, which is more or less hard in proportion as the parts themselves are originally less soft and mucous. Skin, muscles, nerves, veins, tendons, fat, blood, all undergo this wonderful change; and what is most singular is, that it is not requisite to extract the viscera or intestines for the purpose of effecting it; they themselves assume a like solidity with the rest of the body, and some of them even greater. Nor is there any material change of form, color, or general appearance and character, all of which are retained. Not the least disagreeable smell is emitted from his preparations; they are entirely inodorous. Such is the power of the agents he employs, that putrefaction already begun is arrested at the very stage at which it had arrived when his process had commenced. He had even found the means of rendering animal substances unalterable, without destroying in the least their flexibility. The joints and articulations may be bent, and, when the force applied is removed, they assume their former position. His skeletons remain united of themselves by their natural ligaments, retaining their pliability, thus rendering useless all the clumsy contrivances heretofore necessary for combining the bones together. So unalterable are the substances thus preserved, that they are not only unaffected by atmospheric change, but even by a daily exposure to water, and the action of worms. Their volume is but very slightly decreased, and their weight continues nearly the same. Even the spots upon the skin remain visible, whether natural or produced by disease. The hair adheres firmly; not one drops from the human scalp, where they continue as freshly and as firmly as in life.

In republishing this account at length, the National Gazette states that Segato's method of converting the various parts of the human system into stone, has, it is said, been carried so far as to be applied to blood. An American lady wrote to her friends, some time since, that, having undergone the operation of the lancet, she had sent a bowl of the fluid to Segato to have it petrified, and would forward it to her friends cut into rings!

We give another extract from the Southern Medical Journal upon this subject : —

Segato has constructed a tablet, composed of

different pieces of the human body indurated and inlaid in a tessellated form, after the manner of those productions of art which are denominated in Florence as works in *Pietra Dure*. It consists of two hundred and fourteen pieces, of various shapes and colors, differently viewed, and of such hardness that all admit of polish, none are scratched by the nail, few by the knife, and some scarcely by the file. — The Jasper of Siberia is imitated by portions of the spleen, kidneys and heart. The Jasper of Sicily, Saxony and Bohemia, by the pancreas, the uterus, the placenta, and the upper part of the tongue.

Almost every variety of siliceous and calcareous stone which has been applied to the purposes of use or ornament, except only the gems, finds in one portion of the human body, when thus indurated, either in its healthy or some disordered state, a singular and striking resemblance. So perfectly natural is the color and appearance of the specimens of morbid anatomy thus preserved, that a most distinguished surgeon of our country, Dr. Mott, of New York, who recently visited Segato's cabinet, on being shown this tablet, named immediately various parts of the body, and the particular disease with which they had been affected. It was impossible, he said, to avoid recognizing them; they were exactly such as he had repeatedly seen in dissections.

Warm and honorable testimony to the importance and utility of Segato's discovery has been borne by several of his learned countrymen. — His name has already acquired some celebrity in Europe, from his admirable maps of Africa, Morocco and Tuscany, prepared and engraved for himself, — for, among his other talents, he is an excellent chirographer and engraver, — and from a work on Egypt, part only of which has appeared. Several literary and scientific journals have mentioned his labors with the highest commendation.

We have already mentioned that Segato is dead, and it is added that fears are entertained that his art and discovery have perished with him, to the great loss of science. — [*Alexandria Gazette*.]

[From the Thomsonian Defender.]

CHEAT NOT THE SICK.

Not long since, as I was travelling through East Tennessee, I stopped at the house of a man who professed to be a Thomsonian physician. When I entered his house, he remarked, "I am glad to see you, for I have been very unwell for some time;" he then proceeded to relate his symptoms, and stated that he wished me to give him some medicine. Then, said I, do you not think you have the fever? He answered, he thought it was. I then asked him if he had taken any medicine? to which he answered in the affirmative. Have you not taken a full course of medicine, as laid down in Dr. Thomson's New Guide to Health? "No!" said he. What then have you taken? "I have

taken a puke, some composition powders, and so on." As you still remained sick why did you not repeat the dose? I am surprised at you. "Well," said he, "I am afraid of lobelia." — What! a Thomsonian Doctor afraid of lobelia? "Yes!" said he. He then proceeded to state that he was afraid to take an emetic of lobelia, fearing that in vomiting by it, a blood vessel would be ruptured! I laughed at him, and in a short time prepared some lobelia, and gave it to him. Before I gave him any thing, he was rolling over in the bed, throwing his arms about, and said that he had not slept any for the two past nights.

After he had taken the medicines that I had prepared for him, (which were Thomsonian), he in a short time became calm and easy; a soft sweat appeared on the skin, and the Doctor (instead of "bleeding to death," as he had previously thought), dropped off into a sweet sleep. The next morning he got up, took his breakfast, and appeared much on the mend. "Now," said he, "you can write another piece for the Recorder." What is that? "I will tell you," said he, "if you will not let my name be known in the piece." After I had promised not to divulge his name, he proceeded to inform me, that on the previous morning he had taken as many as *fifteen Gamboge Pills*, and that they puked and purged him severely without doing him any good.

This man, as well as many others, professes to practise on the Thomsonian system of medicine, and yet, at the same time, uses medicines that Thomson detests as he would a rattle-snake. The people in this country have become divided upon the subject of medicine; and when they are taken sick they want a genuine mineral doctor, or one that uses true Thomsonian medicine. Now when a man is sick, he sends for a Thomsonian doctor, because he has confidence in the system. Is it not, then, cheating the sick man, to cram medicine down his throat for Thomsonian, when, at the same time, it is not, — and medicine, too, that the sick man would despise as he would an imp from the lower regions? And further, is it doing justice to the cause you profess to advocate? No, sir, it is not. If the sick man happens to be cured by the use of medicines not Thomsonian, but administered by a Thomsonian physician, Dr. Thomson and his system are lauded to the skies for the great cure which his medicine had no agency in performing. This is robbery in the first degree, for the praise that Smith, Wilcox, or Howard, ought to have, is bestowed upon one that does not want it, viz., Thomson. This is certainly wrong, but the wrong does not stop here: if the patient dies under the treatment of a Botanic physician who used medicine not Thomsonian, without giving his patient notice of the same, he is chargeable with cheating his patient, besides Thomson and his system; and the case is reported to the world that Mr. — died under the influence of steam, lobelia, &c. Here, then, the case is changed, and the blame that

should be laid on others, is tightly bound on Thomson's shoulders.

How ought the individual feel, who deals out his nostrums in that way, when he looks at the grave where the body of the man lies who sent for him to administer Thomsonian medicines, and recollects that he has practised fraud on him? This, I think, is enough to make a man of feeling shudder, and to quit professing one thing, and practising another.

Ask those persons who are in the habit of administering compounds or medicines, not authorized by Thomson, and they will answer that they are good. If they are actually good, why be ashamed of them? Tell your patient what they are, and do not attempt to administer them to the sick as 'Thomson's.' Thomson is not then wronged, neither is your patient cheated; and if the sick die, you will have the approbation of a clear conscience. It would, therefore, be well for the sick to be cautious about employing such fraudulent practitioners. But how are they to know them? There is a way by which they may be suspected. If you send for a steam doctor, and he comes and wishes to give you pills for an emetic in the place of lobelia, send him away; if he refuses to give you an injection, take care of him: if he refuses to steam you, you had better send him away; or if he talks much in favor of medicines that Thomson does not recommend, have nothing to do with him.

GEORGE WHITE.

Columbus, (Tennessee.)

[From the Western Botanic Recorder.]

THE HUMAN SYSTEM.

The human system is one of the most beautiful pieces of machinery ever presented to the mind of man. He views it with wonder and astonishment, examines its beautiful structure, is astonished at the harmony, promptness and exactness, with which each part acts, — that by touching a part, the whole vibrates to the touch. The strongest proof that man came from the hands of his Maker finished, is, that when he undertakes to alter this nicely woven frame, he mutilates and destroys its harmony in proportion as he adds to or takes from it.

Hundreds and thousands have become cripples from a too frequent use of the knife. Legs and eyes have been separated from the body, when, if left to the operations of nature alone, they would have been saved for her own special benefit.

The surgeon is anxious to show his skill in using the knife; his taste and talent are for surgery. He acts in that capacity, and, in nearly all instances, amputates when called on to do so. But we contend he is not in all cases the correct man to judge. The practical physician is the one that is to decide this matter, for he is the one to allay the inflammation, if it can be done, and he should be a judge in these cases. An instance in point: —

In a neighboring State a man injured his leg, inflammation took place, the physicians could

not allay it, and they told him amputation of the limb was the only thing that could save his life. He consented, and the time was set for the performance of the operation. With terror he anticipated the time when he should be a cripple, with a large and dependent family to support. An old lady, who had seen the frosts of sixty years, knew of the circumstance, and, being acquainted with the family, she travelled twenty miles on foot to prevent the amputation, and arrived at about the hour in which the performance was to have taken place, examined the limb, and said she could save it. And according to her prediction she performed, and in six weeks the man was found at his daily labor, in possession of both his limbs, earning the necessities for the support of his family. — This is a plain matter of fact, and needs no comment.

There is one thing delightful to the mind, that this complicated and beautiful piece of machinery, of a thousand strings, is operated upon from one single point, and from that point with proper remedies judiciously applied, when out of order, may be brought into a healthy action without the destruction of any of its parts.

Here let me speak of the Founder of the Steam or Botanic System, the much injured, insulted and abused Samuel Thomson, who has been the means of establishing a safe, plain and efficacious system, by which man may be relieved of his bodily afflictions, if there is any relief for him. The Botanic remedies act in perfect harmony with nature; they entail no disease upon her; she is never found injured by these simple remedies; no ulcers are seen upon the body as the result of her labors; the teeth are not separated from the jaws, nor the flesh from the bones. No, — this awful and wretched mutilation of the human system is not to be dreaded; consoling reflection!

MARINE HOSPITALS. — In the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, of July 20, 1836, are certain critical remarks upon Marine Hospitals. The writer speaks of the manner in which they are supported, "by a direct tax of twenty cents a month, deducted from the hard-earned wages of each sailor, without any regard to his circumstances," as being an unrighteous manner of sustaining them. "The poor sailor, under existing rules, is not allowed to remain under medical treatment but about six months, though he may have been paying for it forty years." We think, not only from the remarks of the *Journal*, but likewise from the very general dissatisfaction which exists among the seafaring men, in regard to these institutions, that some of their regulations require reform. Whether the custom of taxing sailors for the support of Marine Hospitals, in the manner in which they are taxed, is just or expedient, is a question which ought to occupy the public attention. That it occasions great dissatisfaction among the common sailors, is a notorious fact — a fact which we consider a very rational argument against it. — [*Boston Post*.]



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton*.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1836.

THE SECOND VOLUME.—In presenting to our readers the first number of the second volume of the Manual, we may be permitted to congratulate them on its continued existence, and to indulge the hope that its permanent establishment may soon be rendered certain. All that would be required to hasten so desirable a consummation, is a little energy on the part of our friends to increase the amount of our patronage. We trust that the benefit our System has conferred, and the still greater benefit it is capable of conferring, will be an adequate inducement to prompt all genuine Thomsonians to extended ardency in its support, and urge them to sustain a publication devoted to the maintenance and dissemination of their principles.

It will be readily apparent to all acquainted with the true character of the Botanic System of practice, that nothing more is needed to render it acceptable to the whole community, than the promulgation of its healing efficacy. And in no other effectual way can this be accomplished, save through the medium of the press. Prejudice and animosity will of course be continually aimed at us to thwart our purposes, by those whose interest it is to leave no stone unturned to build up their projects by the destruction of ours; but to the reflecting and unbiassed portion of the people,—those whose good opinions are worth preserving,—the publication of well-attested facts performed by the influence of our remedies, cannot fail of producing conviction in their favor. Men will be sure to embrace that mode of treatment which results most advantageously, however much it may differ in its operations from the long-established customs that have come down to us, as it were, thick with the rust of antiquity, and, in many instances, as it would seem, with no other virtue to recom-

mend them. Our practice must therefore be more widely known, if we would have still greater success attend it, and the number of its friends increased. Any apathy in regard to this primary object, will inevitably tend to the injury of our cause, and diminish the amount of good it would otherwise perform.

Fixed and settled prejudices are not easily eradicated. Time but adds to their virulence, and renders their removal more difficult and doubtful. So long have Thomsonians been denounced, and their system traduced, that neither are now mentioned by the majority of the community, but to be ridiculed and despised. Reproach and bitterness have taken the place of argument and reason, and the people are called upon to destroy a system they do not appreciate, and will not understand. Every obstacle that malice can devise, to impede our progress, has been put in requisition, and nothing left undone that might defeat what we have accomplished, or prevent the future success of our endeavors. But still, the cause has steadily progressed, with a rapidity and permanency that the strongest opposition could not subdue or overcome. In every section of our country, far as civilization has extended its influence, the salutary consequences of our system are known and felt; and daily evidence is afforded that the confidence reposed in its virtues, has not been misplaced, or idly given.

If, with the opposition we have encountered, we have been thus triumphant, what shall we not effect, when our friends, each and all, persevere to the extent of their abilities? Let this question receive the attention it demands, and we do not believe that any will falter in their exertions, when so much is to be obtained that will benefit and improve the human condition, and banish from society the long catalogue of ills that now meet the view at every step. We cannot prize too highly the importance of the labors of SAMUEL THOMSON, or think any efforts too unreasonable to employ in their support and defence. His true friends, we trust, will not, therefore, be backward in the discharge of this obvious duty; and while they advance the triumph of his principles, let them likewise be on the alert to maintain a vigilant watch for his interests, and ferret out those, who, under the mantle of friendship, are enriching themselves on the fruits of his assiduous toil and labor. Designing men have taken advantage of

his confidence to subserve their own unholy purposes; and even those who should have stood shoulder to shoulder in his behalf, have leagued against him. We have foes all around us, — within the camp, as well as without it. And it now remains for such as are true and genuine Thomsonians, — those who have become so from an honest principle, — to determine whether knavery and oppression shall obtain the mastery over faithfulness and integrity; whether a System, capable of diffusing health and joy to the whole human family, shall be maintained and preserved in its original purity and simplicity, or become corrupted and lost through the treachery of its pretended friends, or by its amalgamation with the erroneous practice of the faculty. ✓

A CASE OF SURGERY. — We have been informed by a gentleman of undoubted veracity, of a surgical operation which was recently performed in a town in this State, under circumstances of so peculiar and revolting a nature, that we cannot refrain from giving them publicity. A laboring man, while engaged in piling lumber, accidentally inserted a small splinter in his arm near the wrist, which, in the hurry of the moment, was suffered to remain until his work was over, and he had repaired to his home. His arm becoming somewhat painful, he now proceeded to examine it more carefully, and finding it considerably swollen, his fears induced him to call in a neighbor near by, of whom he requested advice. The neighbor was even more alarmed than himself, and suggested the immediate necessity of sending for a doctor, although, as our informant said, the splinter might easily have been extracted, could they have overcome their fright. Accordingly, the surgeon of the village was soon brought to the house, and that, too, *in a state of intoxication!* But notwithstanding this conclusive proof of his unfitness, he was allowed by all present to rank among the first in his profession, and therefore no very great risk would be hazarded from his prescriptions! This conclusion prevailing, the patient was urged to submit to whatever the doctor might propose. The latter had no sooner looked at the injured arm, than he pronounced its amputation indispensably necessary to save the man's life! No dissenting voice was heard against this decision, and the surgeon, after procuring his weapons,

succeeded by cutting and slashing, in effecting his object, thus leaving the poor man a cripple for life, with a family dependent on him for support.

NEW THOMSONIAN PAPERS. — We have received, since the publication of our last number, two more new Thomsonian papers, — the "Botanic Luminary," printed at Saline, Michigan, H. Wright, Editor, — and the "Thomsonian Vindicator," at New York, Salmon Bronson, Editor. Both are ably conducted, and bid fair to prove valuable acquisitions to our cause, and successful auxiliaries in the dissemination of its principles and results. So long as Thomsonian papers carefully endeavor to preserve the System in its original plainness and simplicity, untrammelled by abstruse and metaphysical language and ideas, the more assistants we have the better. Too much scrutiny on this point cannot be exercised, if we wish to follow the injunction laid down by the Founder of our Practice, to sustain the System and transmit it to posterity in its pristine purity and virtue.

PREMATURE BURIALS. — The fatal result of the system of immediate inhumation had nearly been realized in Brussels not long since. A respectable citizen fell into so profound a lethargy, that all his friends and medical attendants thought him dead. His body was, therefore, laid out with the usual ceremonies, and placed in a bier. The assistants were on the point of screwing down the coffin to convey it to the church, when, lo and behold! the poor man awoke, rubbed his eyes, and called for his coffee and newspaper, — much to the disappointment of the priests, who were robbed of their fees, and of the heirs, who had already divided his estate.

BITE OF A RATTLE-SNAKE. — A small boy, near Rochester, (N. Y.), lately died from the bite of a rattle-snake. He was in an awfully inflamed state, which commenced on the sole of his foot, breaking out in bright yellow spots, which spread entirely over his frame.

MELANCHOLY. — The Hon. William C. Jarvis, late Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, committed suicide on the 3d of October, at Wethersfield, Vt., while in a state of mental derangement.

☞ We publish the subjoined letter, from a much esteemed friend and correspondent, with the hope that it may serve to quicken the zeal of such as have become lukewarm in promoting the extension of our cause, and induce them to imitate the laudable example of the writer. If all Thomsonians were actuated by the same desire to spread a knowledge of the principles and effects of our system of practice, the triumph would soon be complete and permanent. But we cannot look for this cheering result, while there is remaining any disposition on the part of our friends to relax their endeavors. — Unremitted vigilance, as every one knows, is always necessary to accomplish any important undertaking; how indispensable, then, is it in advancing a cause like ours, where prejudice, hate and ridicule, meet us at every step, to deter us from proceeding! We have, to be sure, gained some flattering victories, — more, perhaps, than the most ardent of our advocates could have reasonably conjectured; and this fact, we believe, has made many of them too much elated to prompt them on to renewed achievements; they have apparently been content to repose quietly on the laurels already won, as though the contest was over, and all further exertions unnecessary. But this is neither a wise nor safe procedure. As much scrutiny and watchfulness should now be employed to preserve the vantage ground we have gained, as was necessary in the outset to secure it. The conquests we have acquired will be of but short duration, if they have a tendency to suppress continued efforts, and persuade us to rest satisfied with what has been accomplished. Our march must either be onward or retrograde; we cannot remain stationary, if we would, and we trust there are none among us who desire to remain so, when it must be evident to all that we have sufficient motives for increasing perseverance.

PORTLAND, Sept. 27, 1836.

To the Editor of the Thomsonian Manual:

DEAR SIR: I felt unusual regret on reading a paragraph in the last number of the Manual, announcing its probable discontinuance after next month, for want of sufficient patronage. I am sorry to state that I fear I shall not obtain much support for the present from the people of this city. They are mightily prejudiced against the Thomsonian System, and consequently against all publications that advocate the cause. This prejudice has been latterly excited by selfish persons, who, however con-

vinced they ought to be of the superiority of the Thomsonian System of medicine above all others, from the many cures that have been wrought by it, on persons whose recovery was despaired of by the physicians of the learned faculty, after using all their skill, yet, for interest's sake, they decry it and endeavor to defeat its influence. But I trust that the respectable and intellectual body of Thomsonians will not permit a periodical, replete with so much instructive and valuable matter, to languish for the want of sufficient assistance; but that they will come forward with promptitude to sustain and continue it, by an advance on the terms of subscription; and thus, by united efforts, form a buttress to prop up a work of such public utility, which must interest all for its continuance. My respect and gratitude for the Venerable Founder would alone be a sufficient motive to uphold it. On these considerations I shall pay a subscription annually of three dollars, which shall be advanced on the appearance of the first number which commences the second volume, should you conclude to continue the paper; and with humble supplication I will raise my hands, praying that every Thomsonian, and every lover of the cause, will follow my example. I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your humble and ob't serv't,

CHARLES D. FRENCH.

[Original.]

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

I will try, now and then, to forward you a few lines, in regard to the success attending your system of practice in this section of the country. As it is facts you want, rather than fine language, I will relate a few in plain and familiar terms: The regular doctors in this quarter, are, many of them, like wolves arrayed in sheep's clothing; they appear friendly to me in conversation, but when they discover that any one is desirous of coming to me in order to partake of my treatment, they then endeavor as much as possible to prevent such person from coming; they not only declare that steaming is hurtful, but that cayenne is injurious and dangerous to the lungs. In consequence, some patients that I have had, would be so stubborn about taking the medicine, that it was almost impossible for me to benefit them; and therefore, I have been deprived of a fair chance to render the assistance that would otherwise have been afforded. In all cases, however, where I have had opportunity to administer the proper treatment, I have uniformly met with good success. Those who have refused to take the medicine as directed, have spared no pains to circulate unfounded reports in relation to it, and have likewise stated that I could not benefit them. — These statements have generally been credited, and, as a necessary result, have prevented patients from placing themselves under my care; in fact, nearly all the patients I have had, were such as had been run down by the mineral

practice. I will give you a brief sketch of a case to substantiate the preceding observations. It is a case that bears a new name, such as I have never read of in any Thomsonian prints; I now make use of it to show the craft used by the doctors to blind the eyes of the people, and to keep them in ignorance of the true nature of their diseases. This they do by changing the name of the sickness, as they did in this case:—

A lady, residing in this vicinity, had been attended for nine years past, by nearly all the regular doctors in this quarter, for nothing more than a common cold in the first place, which caused obstructions in the system. After some time, one of the doctors, as if to show his eminence above the rest, gave the disease a new name,—the spinal complaint. She came to my house last spring in a very low state. I was not very willing, at first, to undertake her case; but at length I consented, and, after about three weeks' close attention, she became somewhat better. She had taken so much of the cold mineral poisons, besides having them applied externally, that she had grown as helpless as a child; antimony had been applied so freely, that the most powerful means would hardly raise the least color in her face, until she had taken a number of courses of medicine. She is now in a better state of health than she has been for ten years previous.

One more case I will mention, to show the simple process by which it was cured. A sister of the above lady had a horse step on her foot about three years ago, and she has been unable to walk on it since. She had tried the skill of the regular doctors, but all to no purpose. Her foot had been kept in a chair for most of the time, as it was painful to rest it on the floor. She came to me to inquire what I thought of it, and whether it could be cured. I readily informed her of my opinion as to the manner in which a cure might be effected, and suggested that as the arteries were injured, they had become contracted by keeping her foot in an elevated position, which caused it to pain her when she held it down, as the blood could not circulate in the foot as it did before. This, she thought, appeared reasonable, but how was it to be cured? I told her that if she would follow my direction, her foot might be cured in a short time; my plan was, to have her procure a heated stone, wrap it in wet cloths, and keep her foot on it as long as she could bear it, and to persevere in this treatment until the pain had ceased; after this, to keep her foot down as much as possible, so as to leave open the blood vessels; to follow this method for a few days, and if it did not relieve her she could come to my house, and I would propose some further treatment. She proceeded according to my direction, and was soon entirely cured, has since been married, and now carries on a large dairy. What reward, do you think, the poor Steam Doctor got for the benefit he rendered the lady? Not even so much as a thankee!

I have mentioned this case to prove how very willing some people are to be cured for nothing, after they have been kept ignorant of the nature of their sickness by the regular doctors, and have paid freely and cheerfully for that which rather injures than benefits them. The community, generally, seem not to consider the recovery of their health as a matter of any great value, unless it is brought about by high-sounding pretensions, and a learned display of abstruse and metaphysical subjects. A plain and simple practice, although productive of the most salutary results, is deemed as a kind of common property, not worth paying for because it is not acquired in the colleges, and hid under a mountain of rubbish and pretended science. If it is not presumptuous in me to give advice, I would caution my Thomsonian brethren not to tell too much for nothing.

Yours, in the Thomsonian faith,

DANIEL LEONARD.

South Tamworth, (N. H.), Sept. 17, 1836.

[Original.]

Extract of a letter, dated

Covington, Fontaine Co., (Ind.), Aug. 30.

DR. S. THOMSON, — Dear Sir: By the advice of my friends I have removed to this place, with the intention of residing here for a period of eight or ten months. I arrived here on the 25th inst., and since that time have had more calls to attend the sick, than I could find opportunity to answer.

I prize your system above every other enjoyment in life, — and more especially, since it increases a lively interest among all who become fully acquainted with its great importance. For encouragement to those who may still be doubtful of the efficacy of your practice, I will briefly relate a few instances that have come under my observation: — About three years since, a son of Mr. Samuel Pierce, (a man grown), of Tippecanoe County, was violently taken with an inflammation in his head, which had the effect of nearly blinding his left eye. He was cured in about forty-eight hours, after bathing with cold water cloths the first day, and steaming the head often with the fumes of vinegar, at the same time giving composition and chicken broth; this treatment was continued through the night until nine o'clock the second day. I then had him raised up, and poured on him a quantity of cold water, wiped him dry, and conveyed him to bed; after that, proceeded with the same treatment as before used, until twelve o'clock. At this period, I applied more water, in the manner just mentioned, gave him composition tea and an emetic, and placed a steaming stone at his feet; repeated the dose at intervals of fifteen minutes, until he puked copiously, and somewhat started a perspiration; then applied cold water moderately, in the way as before related, gave the broth, and the composition highly charged with cayenne and nerve

powder, and steamed the head with vinegar. By this time the mucus glands discharged freely, and a copious perspiration appeared, which continued until the next day, then ceased by degrees, and the patient became restored to health. Since that, I have been informed that both father and son have bought a Family Right and joined the Society.

In my treatment of sores, I have often found that dried mullein leaves, pulverised and sifted, and applied to the sore or fungous part in a good thickness, with any kind of plaster over them, for the space of twelve hours, will form a scab without the least pain attending the process; then, by the application of green mullein leaves scalded in milk, the scab will dissolve in about the same time, so that when washed with soap suds, it will come off clean and without any painful sensation. Any sore can be cured, by the use of a canker wash, dressing it twice a day with salve, and adding one or two thorough courses of medicine in a week; this treatment will effect a cure, even when the muscles and nerves have become mortified, and the hip joints taken off three inches down the thigh bone.

Another case that I shall mention, is of a son of Mr. William Johnson, in this county, who was taken very severely with the cramp colic. A regular physician was called in, who bled him and administered opium. The patient, however, obtained no relief; subsequently, a Thomsonian practitioner was sent for, but from some cause or other, his treatment did not benefit the young man much more than the former. At this stage of the sickness I was requested to undertake the case. I attended the patient, and commenced my operations, by carrying him through a full course of medicine. The next day another M. D. called in and examined the patient, and pronounced his bowels to be in a state of mortification, which, in a degree, was the fact; but I thought there was life enough left to build on, and to encourage me in persevering in the attempt of his recovery. Accordingly, I made it my whole business to wait on him, and administer such medicines as I thought best adapted to ensure success. I gave good, warm, canker injections, as frequently as I could, together with composition tea, No. 6, nerve powder, and chicken broth, to keep up the system, not forgetting the bitters, and some times injected the chicken broth, till at length the yellow bile began to be discharged; by following up the injections, the fat of the bowels passed off, at different times, in a putrid state, to the great satisfaction of the friends. Several days after this a substance was discharged by the patient from some part of the large intestines, of about an ounce in weight, solid as muscle, half an inch thick, and somewhat wider, and one and a half inch long, together with a whitish, milky substance, by a natural motion of the bowels, which was continued as much as twenty times a day, which fully satisfied those present of the truth of the opinion advanced by the regular

physician as to the probability of mortification. The patient was greatly relieved in consequence, and is now fast gaining strength and his usual health.

I could relate many other cases would time and opportunity permit; these, however, must be deferred to a more convenient period. The pressure of business allows me but few moments to devote to leisure. If the foregoing accounts, imperfectly sketched in the hurry of my avocation, can subserve any beneficial purpose, do with them as you please.

With sentiments of respect and gratitude,

I remain yours, &c.,

BARNUM CLARK, B. T.

✧ PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION OF THE "OLD SCHOOL" SYSTEM.—The Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, in the first number of his 15th volume, says,—“Since we commenced this publication (seven and a half years) wonderful changes have taken place in the circle of our earliest medical friends and associates. The grave now conceals more than *sixty* personal acquaintances, and talented correspondents, who have contributed, in some way, to these pages. How melancholy the reflection, that such a combination of intellect, exerted for the highest moral as well as physical benefit of man, should have been sealed up in death, in some cases even before the frost of age was discoverable!”

Melancholy indeed, Dr. Smith! We ourselves have often felt this emotion, when, on looking over your list of “deaths of medical men,” we have observed that so many interesting youth should have fallen victims to your false theories and your misery-making and life-destroying, poison and depleting practice! Truly can we unite with you, Dr. Thacher, Dr. Rush, and Dr. Bigelow, in deploring the impotency of that medical science which has no power to check the ravages of “self-limited diseases!” Notwithstanding the proverbial unwillingness of “the profession” to take their remedies, still, it seems, they take enough to work a fearful thinning of their ranks. If a Thomsonian Doctor should die under the influence of steam and lobelia, as Dr. Chandler did under that of “enough of James’s Powders to kill ten men,” when should we hear the last of it? But we have not heard of the death of a single Thomsonian Physician during the last year, if we except Dr. Hersey, who was more than seventy years of age, and he did not die under this practice. — [*Thomsonian Recorder.*]

Mr. Henry Stathart, an iron-founder of Bristol, England, has invented an apparatus for converting salt water to fresh, and at the same time cooking provisions for the passengers and crew of the vessel. This is said to be one of the most useful inventions discovered in these modern times.

"WITHIN A SHADOW OF BEING POISONED."—A few weeks since, a certain Dr. T., a member of the regular faculty in New York, labored under a singular mental hallucination. He imagined that he was destined soon to become the victim of paralysis or numb palsy. Accordingly, he repaired to a lawyer, and in due form proceeded to make his will. When this was accomplished, he returned home, and, during his sitting at the tea-table, observed that he felt the fit coming on, and desired to be carried to bed, which was done, and he soon after became speechless. A member of the family went to call Dr. A., and, in the meantime, a woman who lived there, and who was somewhat of a Thomsonian, thinking that something ought to be attempted for the relief of the doctor, gave him some of the compound tincture of cayenne, commonly called No. 6, or hot drops. This soon put the old doctor in a profuse perspiration, and he revived. About this time Dr. A. arrived, and inquired, "What was the matter?" "Ah!" said Dr. T., "it had like to have been all over with me! I have had a fit of the palsy!" "But I have cured him with a dose of No. 6," said the woman. "No. 6!" said Dr. T.; "what is that? is it Thomson's No. 6?" "Yes, sir," was the reply. "My God!" said he, "what a wonder it had not killed me!" "Do not be alarmed, Sir," said Dr. A., "it was the very thing you wanted." The doctor got well of his mental alienation from that moment, and remains so to this time. Thus a single dose of Thomson's harmless No. 6 saved the life of Dr. T., in all probability. For although his disease was mental, yet it so affected his physical powers sympathetically, through fear, by means of the nerves, as would soon have produced that which he so much dreaded, and death would probably have been the consequence. — [*Thomsonian Vindicator.*]

The candid confession of Dr. Richard Rees, of London, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, author of the "Dictionary of Popular Medicine," "Chemical Guide," corresponding member of the Society of Practical Medicine of Paris, &c., &c., &c. :—

"The character of the 'Royal College of Physicians' is found to contain a singular license, which is, a permission to any one and every one to practise the healing art by the use of *herbs only*. Now, we really do consider this as ample a permission as any man would require; for poor must be the resources of that physician's mind, and very narrow his knowledge of medical botany, who could not, *from the vegetable kingdom alone*, cure most of the diseases of the human frame,—even the specific of mercury, if we were driven to the necessity of a substitute, might probably be rivalled in some of these productions of nature. We know not whether we have most reason to hail the discovery of mercury as a blessing, or regard it as a curse, since the diseases it entails are as numerous as those which it cures. Our

best-informed dentists declare, that they can clearly witness the progress of the use of mercury, in the increasing diseases and decay of the teeth. There are serious objections, also, to other articles of the metallic world: antimony, iron and arsenic, are dangerous in the hands of the ignorant; and mankind, perhaps, in the aggregate, would be benefitted by their expulsion from medical practice."

There is a spirit of honesty and magnanimity running through the above quotation, which, in a regular doctor, is as surprising as it is creditable and praiseworthy. But few of the Faculty in this country would be willing to say as much concerning the effects of metallic medicines, or allow for a moment that by a knowledge of the vegetable kingdom alone, we may "cure most of the diseases of the human frame." Were the suggestions of Dr. Rees generally followed, or, rather were his principles carried out to their proper extent, by the practitioners of the old system, the salutary results of such a measure would soon be apparent in the greater degree of health and happiness than now ensues from the operations of their practice. We should have been more gratified if the Doctor had recommended the abandonment altogether of the use of mercury, since, by his own admission, he is doubtful whether to hail its discovery as a blessing, "or regard it as a curse;" but still, we will not withhold from him the credit he deserves, when he thus displays the moral courage of daring to dissent from arbitrary custom, and evinces a disposition to rely more on the "vegetable kingdom," and less on the dangerous tendency of minerals.

DYSENTERY. — The dysentery is prevailing to some extent in the south and west parts of the county, — several deaths have occurred, and others are now dangerously sick. This disorder has, we believe, ever baffled the skill of the regular doctors. The Thomsonians cure it almost invariably. Indeed, we believe they never fail while there is life to build on.

In 1823 or '24, the dysentery prevailed in the northeast part of this county, and the southeast of Geauga. More than 100 persons died with it in about five weeks, nearly all children, and some aged people. In Mantua, where we then resided, twenty-one persons died, among which were the three children of our regular physician. In Parkman, twenty-six died, among which were the two children of their regular practitioner. The regular doctor, generally, gave up trying, — the Thomsonians took hold, and cured. Dr. Oliver Mills, of Charlestown, has had good success, — curing, uniformly, if called in season. — [*Ravenna (Ohio) Courier.*]

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

MEASLES.

MR. EDITOR: About eight weeks ago I was called to see a young lady who was laboring under a slight indisposition. It being late at night, I gave her a portion of bitter root, which operated gently. In the morning I again called. She said she felt much better; but, after washing nearly all day, felt somewhat weary with some pain in the back and legs; and, on counselling with her sister, thought she had better take a potion of calomel. Consequently, she went to Dr. V., and procured a dose, which she soon took; but soon after became very sick, and in a few hours began to vomit and purge, and continued so till morning, at which time she was also troubled with a light fever. The doctor was now called in, and, after examining her pulse, gave her another potion of calomel, which operated as before. He called again in the evening. Finding her no better, the old lady asked him if her daughter had not the measles? He said he thought not; but she further said she thought she had, and asked leave to give something to drive them out. To which he replied no, he did not want them driven out, stating that it was all a foolish notion about driving the measles out, and left; but, contrary to the doctor's orders, she came to me and requested me to call and see her daughter, which request I declined. She then asked me what would be good to drive out the measles? I told her penny-royal, hot balm tea, and hot buttermilk. She made use of the above articles immediately, which caused an eruption to appear on the surface. She then felt a little easier. The doctor came again next morning, and gave her a blue pill, which operated still more freely, and served to draw the determining powers inward, and made her very sick; likewise congestion of the brain followed immediately, with hemorrhage from the nose. She was now a fit subject for a Steam Doctor. The old lady came to me again and requested me to visit her daughter, to which I consented; but, on seeing her, I told the mother that I thought the doctor would cure her, and I would rather he would, (as he and I were neighbors and on good terms, and I wished to keep so.) I left. She continued getting weaker, with involuntary discharges from the bowels, vomiting, and bleeding from the nose, inasmuch that sudden dissolution was expected. I was again called in, (intending all the time to render my service rather than let her die.) I told her mother to put the feet of the patient in hot water, which was soon done. I then gave her some Nos. 2 and 3, steeped some bayberry and hemlock in hot water, and strained them off and threw some of the decoction up each nostril two or three times. The blood stopped forthwith, but she still continued straining to vomit. I then gave her more of Nos. 2 and 3, with a little of the third preparation of No. 1, which appeared to impart strength and ease, and soon she vomited up a quantity of bilious matter. I then gave her some more,

which operated the same, and ordered her to be washed clean. The eruption was now completely over the whole surface, and the patient in a gentle perspiration; she slept nearly all night, the first she had slept for three or four nights. I now gave her Nos. 2, 3 and 4, &c. She got well in a short time, and now enjoys good health.

M. H. SPINING.

Lebanon, (Ohio), Aug. 29, 1836.

CERTIFICATE. — The author of the annexed certificate is a Quaker lady, of high respectability and strict veracity, whose modesty and acute sense of moral honesty, has kept her statement of the facts in her case far within the bounds of truth. When Dr. Lapham was called to attend her, the various symptoms of her disease had become much more aggravated than formerly; and with regard to the cancer, it will be seen that seven years had elapsed since she had been advised by the highest regular medical authority in this country to have it cut out. — [*Thomsonian Vindicator.*]

CERTIFICATE.

"The following statement is made with a view of benefitting all persons laboring under similar complaints:—

"For more than thirty years I had been afflicted with a nervous headache, which was at times very distressing. I was also seriously afflicted with a complaint called *salt rheum*, for about twenty years, which, in 1833, extended over my head and a considerable portion of my body. In 1823, a tumor made its appearance on my breast, which was attended with a twinging sensation, and which continued gradually to increase. In 1826, I applied to an eminent physician in the city of New York, who pronounced it to be the commencement of a cancer, and recommended a surgical operation, which was, however, declined. I made use of more or less medicine of various kinds for about seven years, without any apparent benefit. In the spring of 1833, Dr. Thomas Lapham, of Poughkeepsie, was employed, who, by the use of the Thomsonian Botanic medicines, effectually cured me of all the before mentioned complaints, and so far improved the state of my system, that I can truly say I am enjoying better health than I have done for many years past.

MARIA THORNE."

HOW TO AVOID DEAFNESS. — Few need be told, that if they wish to hear well, and avoid deafness, they must guard against wet feet, thin shoes, cold currents, and draughts of air, keeping on wet clothes, sleeping in damp rooms and unaired beds, going into the night air from heated apartments, living in marshy and low situations, &c. Shunning these things those who would retain their hearing unimpaired till old age, should attend to their general health, take as much out-door exercise as they can, breathe pure air, live on plain, but nutritious food, keep the mind calm and tranquil, and be especially careful to prevent constipation of the bowels.

PLAIN OBSERVATIONS.—The plain, common sense man, knows that jalap will purge his bowels, mercury salivate the salivary glands, emetic tartar excite vomiting, and Thomson's lobelia and warming medicines will open the pores of the body and promote perspiration. The idea, and the operation of these medicines, are the same in every language under heaven. A man of competent mind, — of sane, rational, active, enterprising genius, knowing only his maternal tongue, being personally, practically, and experimentally acquainted with the remedies, the usual mode of administration, and their ordinary effects, — is better qualified to officiate as a physician, than the most accomplished linguist, who is destitute of these advantages. I have been led to these remarks by reading and reflecting on the writings of Dr. Samuel Thomson. Men of small minds, the dupes of their more knowing neighbors, whose motives are not always pure, condemn unheard, unexamined, what they do not understand. Others of stronger intellect, being themselves physicians, or the fathers, brothers, uncles, aunts, or thirty-second cousins, of some regular physician, they feel for the dignity, reputation and interest, of themselves or their favorites. They feel a deep stake in advancing their standing in society ; — they discover that the plainness, simplicity, and successfulness, of Dr. Thomson's scheme of medical practice, raises up competitors in every quarter, — prejudice, rank, stale, deadly prejudice, rankles in their breasts, — they stupidly prefer death, at the hands of a regular doctor, a college-made doctor, to life and health, at the hands of Dr. Thomson, or his adherents. What is more surprising, is, that so many resist conviction. True, the Thomsonian cause is looking up. His system is progressing ; — confessions, supporting its reputation for successfulness, are daily accumulating. But, for truth's sake, for the honor of human nature, we wish to see a cessation of that relentless hostility that is often to be met, — that when men's lives are in jeopardy, they may betake themselves to such remedies, as reason, observation and experience demonstrate are always safe, — more uniformly and certainly more beneficial, than any with which the world has been formerly acquainted, and never known to injure, when judiciously and faithfully applied. — [*Thomsonian Vindicator.*]

INTERESTING ANECDOTE.—In the debate in Congress on the removal of Washington's remains, Mr. Howard, of Maryland, related the following interesting historical anecdote :—

“When the British fleet was passing up the Potomac, with hostile intent, during the late war, the commander directed that when he arrived opposite Mount Vernon, he should be informed of the fact. When he was told that the ship was passing the tomb of Washington, the officers assembled upon deck, and passed by uncovered and in silence.”

PHYSIOLOGICAL NATURE OF DEATH.—The idea of the intense suffering immediately preceding dissolution, is, and has been, so general, that the term “agony” has been applied to it in many languages. In its origin, the word means nothing more than a violent contest or strife ; but it has been extended so as to embrace the pangs of death and any violent pain. The agony of death, however, physiologically speaking, instead of being a state of mental and corporeal turmoil and anguish, is one of insensibility. The hurried and labored breathing, the peculiar sound on inspiration, and the turned-up eye-ball, instead of being evidences of suffering, are now admitted to be signs of the brain having lost all, or almost all, sensibility to impressions. Whilst the brain is possessed of consciousness, the eye is directed as the will commands, by the appropriate voluntary muscles of the organ ; but as soon as consciousness is lost, and the will no longer acts, the eye-ball is then drawn up involuntarily under the upper eye-lid. All the indications, therefore, of mortal strife, are such in appearance only ; even the convulsive agitations, occasionally perceived, are of the nature of the epileptic spasms, which we know to be produced in total insensibility, and to afford no real evidence of corporeal suffering. — An easy death is what all desire ; and, fortunately, whatever have been the previous pangs, the closing scene in most ailments is generally of this character. In the beautiful mythology of the ancients, Death was known as the daughter of Night, and the sister of Sleep. She was the only divinity to whom no sacrifice was ever made, because it was felt that no human interference could arrest her arm ; yet her approach was contemplated without any physical apprehension. The representation of Death, as a skeleton covered merely with skin, on the monument of Cannæ, was not the common allegorical picture of the period. It was generally depicted on tombs as a friendly genius, holding a wreath in his hand, with an inverted torch ; as a sleeping child, winged, with an inverted torch resting on his wreath ; or, as Love, with a melancholy air, his legs crossed, leaning on an inverted torch, — the inverted torch being a beautiful emblem of the gradual self-extinguishment of the vital flame.

The disgusting representations of Death from the contents of the charnel-house were not common until the austerity of the 14th century, and are beginning to be abandoned. In more recent times, Death seems to have been portrayed as a beautiful youth ; and it is under this form that he is represented by Canova, on the monument which George IV. of England erected in St. Peter's at Rome, in honor of the Stuarts. — [*American Journal.*]

It is possible that a wise and good man may be persuaded to engage in play ; but it is morally impossible that a professed or habitual gambler should ever be a wise and good man, a good citizen, or a good neighbor.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, DECEMBER 15, 1836.

[NUMBER 2.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, and sent to subscribers on the following

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

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APPETITE FOR FOOD—HUNGER AND THIRST.

Hunger and thirst are the sensations by which instinct urges all animals to seek the food which is necessary for their support. The symptoms of hunger are pain at the pit of the stomach, great depression of spirits, bodily weakness, increased sensibility to cold, a disposition to sleep, rapid emaciation, and, if food be still withheld, the action of the heart becomes quick and feeble, the respiration short and hurried, and the mind sinks into a state of stupor, or low muttering delirium, amidst which death closes upon the sufferer. The distress arising from excessive thirst is even of a more aggravated description: the mouth and throat become dry and heated, the tongue swells, the flow of saliva diminishes, the eyes become red, the respiration laborious, the circulation hurried, a sense of most painful constriction exists in the throat, the mouth is kept wide open to inhale every breath of air, the body becomes feverish, the mind troubled, and at length mania, terminating in death, supervenes. All animals can endure hunger longer than they can thirst; the symptoms of the latter run on more speedily to a fatal termination, and are to the sufferer utterly intolerable. The inquisitions of Spain and Italy could not devise a more cruel punishment than that of withholding a drop of water from the unhappy creature condemned to die upon the rack; and "*drink! drink!*" were generally the last words uttered by their dying victims.

It is interesting to ascertain the causes of every phenomenon in the animal economy; and those which give rise to the sensations of hunger and thirst, have occasioned much speculation. The cause of hunger has, by one set of physiologists, been attributed to a painful sensation of the nerves of the stomach, produced by the irritation of the gastric juice; by another, to the coats of the stomach rubbing against each other; by another, to the liver dragging

upon the diaphragm, or that transverse muscle which divides the chest from the abdomen, and immediately above which the stomach rests. Sir Charles Bell argues that the secretion of the gastric juice requires a provocative which is supplied by the food; and when this is not present, the nerves, wanting their wonted stimulus, suffer a sense of desire, which constitutes the pain of hunger. Accustomed, in fact, to this excitement, they acquire an aptitude for it,—a sudden vehemence,—which, if not daily supplied with its accustomed provocative, experiences uneasiness, and disturbs by sympathy the skin, heart, lungs, and brain; in fact, all the organs of the system. It is quite evident that the primary sensation of hunger depends upon an irritation of the nerves; and hence, any sudden mental emotion suspends the appetite. If any person, even at the most tempting banquet, receives any intelligence of a distressing nature, his appetite is immediately checked, and the previous desire for food is converted almost into loathing; even a sense of nausea is often induced.

The celebrated Van Helmont, once going to dine with a friend, met with an accident, by which he dislocated his ankle; his appetite immediately forsook him, but returned as soon as the bone was set. The suspension of the appetite did not arise from the mere bodily impression, for the appetite was re-established, though the pain continued after the dislocation was reduced. The cause of thirst is more obvious, arising evidently from the extreme dryness of the membrane lining the mouth, gullet, and stomach. Its want of lubricity [slipperiness] is such as even to excite inflammation. Hence, the warm bath, by reducing the inflammatory excitement of the throat, reduces thirst. When long continued, the watery part of the blood diminishes, and, accordingly, it has been found that thirst is allayed by injecting water into the veins. To appease their thirst, sailors at sea often wear wet shirts. Water alone affords by no means the most speedy relief. It should be mixed with some gentle stimulus, as with a little wine. Acid drinks, also, by acting as stimuli, quickly relieve thirst. To a certain degree, thirst is under the control of habit. Those who indulge in the vicious habit of drinking often, are rendered thirsty by abstaining from their usual potation; but many persons, by habituating themselves only to small quantities of liquids with their meals, seem never to experience the sensation. Dr. Paris had under his care a lady of fifty years of age, who declared to him that she was perfectly unacquainted with the sensation of thirst. Sauvage relates several similar

instances that occurred to himself, and Blumenbach quotes many examples of the same description.

The sensation of severe hunger may be appeased by any narcotic substance being introduced into the stomach. Whenever the Indians of Asia and America take a long journey, and apprehend that they will be destitute of provisions, they mix the juice of tobacco with powdered shells, and make the mass into small balls, which, when the sensation of hunger occurs on their travels, they put into their mouths, and retain them there until they dissolve. A celebrated physician was once asked by a poor parishioner for alms, when he inquired of the petitioner what he had done with his last money? to which the poor man answered that he had expended his last half-penny in the purchase of roll-tobacco; upon which the doctor expressing his surprise at such improvidence, was informed by the poor man that he could subsist longer on tobacco than on bread.—During the trial raised by an insurance office concerning the death of a late nobleman, it was proved, from the evidence of several apothecaries in Edinburgh, that many of the poor people in that city are in the habit of taking drams of laudanum for the same purpose. Although the pains of hunger may by such means be for a time relieved, the repetition of so imprudent an act never fails, by destroying the tone of the stomach, to entail the most abject misery on the individual.

The introduction of spirits into the stomach also relieves the pains of hunger. It has been said, on the authority of Polidori, Lord Byron's physician, that entertaining a dread of becoming corpulent, his Lordship frequently abstained from food for many days, and in the meantime appeased his hunger by a wafer and a glass of brandy. Mechanical pressure, either internal or external, also mitigates for a time the cravings of hunger; hence, many persons, under such circumstances, have swallowed sand, sawdust, earth, &c. An instance is related by Dr. Percival, of a madman who was afflicted with a voracious appetite, who, nevertheless, became emaciated and died; and, upon an examination of his body, a compacted mass of hay and straw was found in the stomach. It is for this end that the Kamschatkan swallows quantities of sawdust; and even the inferior animals, to blunt the sense of hunger, adopt the same practice. The manis or pangolin, which swallows its food whole, will swallow stones or coals, or any other substance, if it cannot obtain nutriment. Many other animals have recourse to the same expedient; hence, mixed pieces of coal, stone, slate and earth, are often found in the stomach of the ostrich, cassowary, and even in that of the toad. It is the custom of some of the northern Asiatic tribes to relieve the pains of hunger by the pressure of a board placed externally over the region of the stomach, which they lace behind with cords, and tighten according to the lesser or greater uneasiness they experience. In

this country, a tightened handkerchief or girdle is sometimes had recourse to for the same purpose. It is true that these various expedients may for the time alleviate or suspend the pains of hunger, but they afford only a temporary relief; for the explanation already given of the nature and object of the digestive process, renders it evident that the animal body continually demands the accession of new particles of matter; and if these be withheld by the want of nutritious diet, the waste of the system will exceed the amount of its reparation, and, consequently, rapid emaciation must ensue. Hence, the cause of persons who die from starvation wasting so rapidly away.

If the human body be liable to present us with this wretched appearance, from the balance between the waste and repair, of the system being broken by the want of nutritious particles being supplied, it is also liable to present us with the appearance of excessive fatness, arising from an excess of nutritious particles being superadded. In this case, the excess of nutrition is deposited, under the form of fat, in little cells or bags beneath the skin, and between the muscles; and the object of its being deposited in these little cells or bags is to prevent its descending by its own gravity to the depending parts of the body. The water in dropsy, not being so confined, gravitates to the extremities; and, for this reason, the legs of persons who are of a weakly habit, in whom the watery part of the blood is liable to be effused or to escape, swell at night; but the fat confined in a series of little cells, which do not communicate with each other, is retained in its natural place of deposition. The fat is then to be regarded as a reservoir of nutrition; for, during abstinence, the body, as it were, preys upon itself, and is supported only by the re-absorption of this substance. For this reason, we find infants always fatter than adults; the truth is, they grow fast, and a greater supply of nutritious articles is demanded to increase the bulk of the different textures of which the body is composed. Besides this, infants, from the numerous febrile diseases to which they are liable, are more apt to suffer from repeated attacks of sickness than adults; and during such attacks, food being inadmissible, they derive their support mainly by this provision. It is stated by Dr. Stark, that, during abstinence, the fat which is re-absorbed into the system, for the time being, is more capable of repairing the waste of the body than any food that may be taken. It may be added, that the marrow which exists in the bones appears to be a provision for nutrition similar to that of the fat; hence, in the bones of oxen that have been overdriven, and in those of animals that have died of starvation, no marrow can be found.

In consequence of a very irritable state of the nerves of the stomach, caused probably by acidity, a preternatural appetite or craving for food often occurs, and persons so affected will frequently devour the most indigestible kind

of substances. Many instances are recorded of individuals who have sought to devour with avidity earth, cinders, spiders, toads, serpents, bits of wood, hair, soap, candles, paper, &c. Among the blacks in Jamaica, an epidemic disease, consisting of a craving to devour dirt, under the form of clay or loam, has been described by Dr. Hunter. It is a disease, indeed, which, under the term of *Pica*, is apt to prevail among the Swiss, the Welsh, and the people of mountainous districts, who are unable, according to their passionate desire, to revisit their native country. A case is related by Dr. Darwin, of a girl, about ten years of age, who devoured the earth out of a flower-pot, and then vomited it up mixed with bits of stone, wood, and wings of insects. Stones, glass, and even leaden bullets, have been swallowed by persons afflicted with this disease. In the healthy state of the human body, the appetite for food, however, admits of considerable control; for, if the meals be taken at regular and fixed times, the desire for food will always recur at stated intervals. It should be noticed, however, that persons sitting down to eat when very hungry, are apt to overload the stomach before the sensation of hunger is perceptibly relieved. This is an error which should be carefully guarded against, as it is apt to cause heartburn, and other distressing maladies. The appetite for food, both solid and liquid, may be so pampered as to rest itself satisfied only by the most dainty and luxurious dishes; and hereby, it is obvious that two very grievous evils are induced:

First, the stomach, like a spoiled child, constantly indulged with such luxuries, becomes more urgent in its demand for the repetition of the indulgence; it acquires an aptitude and desire for highly dressed food, which, if not gratified, gives rise to painful sensations; in fact, the stomach, having been accustomed to be overstimulated, sinks, when the excitement is withheld, into a relaxed or torpid state, and the ability to perform its natural functions becomes sensibly impaired. Second,—although an evil of less magnitude to the sufferer,—the habit of pampering the appetite, whereby that which was once a luxury becomes converted into a necessity, must render him liable to be placed in situations where his epicurean desires cannot be gratified; in which case he must suffer inconvenience himself, and be an annoyance to the other persons in his society.

Let the appetite for food, therefore, like all the other appetites or passions which are incident to humanity, be duly regulated; let parents, in particular, remember, that the plainer the food is to which they accustom their children, the better; health, happiness, and serenity of mind, are not the offsprings of luxury, but of those simple, regular, and reasonable habits, which should assiduously be cultivated in early life. — [Chamber's *Edinburgh Journal*.]

An angry man is again angry with himself, when he returns to reason.

[From the Botanic Sentinel.]

ANOTHER PROOF.

For the benefit and encouragement of that portion of the community, who are partially friendly to the Botanic system of medicine, but who are yet doubtful as to its *entire* efficacy and superiority in *all* cases in comparison with the mineral system, I have forwarded the following case; and not to enlighten the practitioners of the Botanic system, because they would universally, in a similar case, resort to the same means, without feeling at any loss how to proceed. Indeed, this is a peculiar attribute of the system, a natural result of a correct theory of health and disease, in conjunction with medicinal agents, that exert a salutary influence over the various organs of the living body in the phenomena of life, — whereas, the practice of the mineral system is altogether empirical, and, in an extreme case, and especially one of unusual occurrence, if ten regular, school bred, mineral physicians, were called and their opinions taken separately, it is more than probable that there would hardly any two agree in all points, so as to adopt a regular and uniform mode of treatment. But one would apprehend this course of treatment should be pursued, — another, deducting from some favorite theory, that something else might be better, — and a third would remember having read something in some celebrated author, that would, *perhaps*, succeed better still than either of the former opinions, — the fourth had seen a similar case, where all the three preceding methods were tried without success; therefore, he should advise something, perhaps directly opposite in its effect to the former modes. Thus, while they were *discussing* and *employing* their random remedies, the patient would sink beyond the reach of any. But to proceed to the case:—

A resident in our village, from pecuniary embarrassment and mental despondency, a short time since swallowed an ounce of laudanum for the purpose of destroying himself; and as no person saw him do it, the precise time of the day was not ascertained; but from what was known, it must have been between eleven and twelve o'clock, at noon, as he quitted his work about that time, and apparently went home to dinner, having previously obtained the laudanum at a neighboring store; he, however, refused to eat with the rest of the family. Directly after dinner he informed his wife that he had taken the laudanum; but she said that she did not believe it, and concluded that he only said so to alarm her; he shortly after manifested symptoms of it, and the neighbors, generally, were soon collected at his house. About this time I was sent for, being about half a mile distant, and arrived a little after two o'clock. I found him insensible, and very much convulsed, with frothing at the mouth, nose, &c. I had his jaws pryed a little open by means of a spoon-handle, and immediately introduced a portion of the most active preparation of the lobelia; this soon relaxed the muscles of the parts, so

that by holding his nose, &c., we were enabled to pour down another and larger quantity, and in a very few minutes his sensibility began to return and the spasms abate, and in about twenty minutes he threw up a small quantity of the laudanum. He had now so much revived that I persuaded him to swallow a still larger quantity of the medicine; this very soon ejected the whole of the remaining laudanum from his stomach, and produced a copious and profuse perspiration, which effectually cleared that portion from his system which was taken up in the circulation or absorbed, previously to the administration of the medicine, (which must have been considerable in the time that elapsed, and the stomach also empty), so that he afterwards manifested very little symptoms of stupor, which an excessive dose of laudanum always produces. I forgot to state that one of his neighbors arrived about the time that the second dose was given, and inquired if any *regular* physician had been sent for? He was answered no, and he sent a messenger for Dr. Clarke, of Trenton, and it was at this time (four o'clock) that he arrived, bringing with him a young physician, Dr. Welling. The young doctor proposed to introduce the stomach pump, and the elder doctor consented, no doubt to give him an opportunity to practise an operation that he had never done before; the opportunity was too good to pass without being turned to account, and at it they went, although the bystanders generally cried out against it, and even the person that sent for them allowed that the patient's stomach was emptied of all the laudanum, and he out of danger. However, they injected some warm water, and pumped it out again, but it did not smell at all of the laudanum; whereas, what he had before thrown up, scented the whole house. The patient recovered altogether, body and mind, and has resumed his usual occupation.

I would here desire the attention of the sceptical, to compare the probable results of the treatment of both the systems in question. In the first place, in country towns, it might be impracticable to apply the pump in time to be of any service; or, even in the city, the circumstance of the laudanum being swallowed, might not be known in time to apply it with a chance of success: and as for emetics, the mineral system does not possess one, in the class of emetics, that it would be safe to exhibit, as opium is chiefly depended on, to check the excessive operation of them generally; whereas the lobelia can be given in any desired quantity, with entire safety,—nor would opium nor any other noxious substance in the stomach prevent its action, nor yet would its action cease, when the stomach only was cleared of the offensive matter; but continue until the whole is routed from the circulation, and until the various organs of the body resume their wonted functions.

The circumstance that lobelia is capable of being directed immediately to the seat of the disease in several ways, is a matter of the first

importance. Hence, if it is able,—as it undoubtedly is,—to dislodge such a deadly narcotic as opium, a giant that has hitherto resisted the efforts of any *medicinal* antagonist in the mineral system that could be brought against it, is it not fair to infer that it would be likely to grapple with and route any other *giant enemy*, that may and frequently does entrench himself in the vast machinery of the human organization?

EBENEZER HANCE.

Morrisville, 10th mo., 1st, 1836.

CASES OF SMALL POX. — Elizabeth Bethell, residence No. 26 Duke street, was taken violently with the small pox. The regular family physician was sent for, who, after several visits, gave his opinion to the family "that the patient could not live," the disease having assumed a very "malignant type." The father of the patient, entertaining a favorable opinion of the system of Dr. Thomson, determined on calling in a Thomsonian practitioner. Dr. Comfort was applied to and solicited to undertake the case, which he consented to, after examining the patient. The eruption, which had made its appearance several days previous, was at this time scarcely visible,—the abdomen much distended, the bowels torpid, no passage from them having taken place for several days, notwithstanding a number of doses of purgatives had been given; the extremities cold,—the patient the greater part of the time delirious. Warm bricks, wrapped in cloths, were placed around her, and several doses of composition tea, with additional cayenne, nerve powder, and No. 6, were given; and, after the lapse of about two hours, an emetic was given, composed of Dr. Thomson's third preparation, in a strong tea of bayberry. Injections, composed of the same, were administered. This course very soon produced a re-action, the circulation was restored, the eruption soon became completely developed, and, by a free use of composition, golden seal, No. 6 and milk porridge, and occasionally an injection, the patient remained in a great measure comfortable, and in nine days was able to ride out. She is now in good health.

Mrs. Mitchell, of Kensington, taken with the small pox, being in the last stage of pregnancy, her case was considered critical; it certainly would have been under the "regular" practice, A Thomsonian practitioner was called in, who administered in the first stage of the disease; and the circulation being kept free by the use of composition, and Thomson's ladies' friend, the disease run its course in about nine days, and in two weeks after, she was delivered of a healthy child,—both have done well. — [*Botanic Sentinel*.]

A GOOD COMPARISON. — An Arabian proverb assimilates men of great loquacity and moderate intellects to grist-mills, of which we only hear the annoying clatter, without ever carrying away any flour.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

INTERESTING CASE.

I have long been desirous to send the following case for publication in the Recorder; but I was fearful that the patient might have a return of the disease, in which case many of our opponents would give no credit to the Thomsonian medicines: for be it understood, that if one of our patients should at any time hereafter be afflicted with disease, why, "there is a patient they have not cured," is echoed by every foe of Thomsonism. But if an M. D. should be so unfortunate as to keep a patient sick all the time, year after year, he is lauded to the skies for preserving his life. But to return to the case.

The patient was a young lady, in a neighboring town, nineteen years of age. I was called to see her on the 9th of August, 1835. I ascertained that she had been sick most of the time for six years; in that time she had been attended by not less than *thirteen* regular physicians: each one, in turn, after trying various *experiments*, abandoned her as incurable. They all *named* it the dropsy of the heart, as the collection of water appeared to be in the left sac of the pleura. Of this disease, says Mackenzie, page 204, "This is another of those diseases that mock the art of man." Hooper, speaking of the same, says, page 440, "It has seldom been cured, and, in many cases, would hardly admit of alleviation." The last physician who attended her administered freely of preparations of nitre, digitalis, gamboge, and mercury, together with arsenic. He also tried blisters, but they would not operate. He then gave a pill of cantharides and digitalis combined; but all would not do, and he gave her up, saying she might live a month or two, but yet he should not be surprised if she should die in a day.

Thus situated I found her at the time above stated. She was anxious to have me undertake her case. I objected, for I was fearful that she would die under my care, in which event I should obtain the credit of killing her. I conversed with her friends about it, and they all told me, that, as she had been given up by the regulars, if I would undertake and do the best I could, let the result be what it might, they should not blame me. I left her some medicine to take for about three weeks, when I had made arrangements and had her removed into a family near me, that she might be under my immediate care.

Her whole system appeared to be in a cold, inactive state. I therefore commenced giving her very freely of best No. 2, in large tea spoonful doses, repeated several times in the course of the day. She took it in small portions of water, *without any sweetening*, and said that she could not perceive any pungent taste to it more than to common ginger; and it was not until she had taken it two weeks, that she complained of its burning her mouth.

She was very anxious to have me give her a course of medicine; but I was fearful, that, as she had taken so large a quantity of poisons,

and her system was so cold and inactive, that some of it might still be dormant in the system, and the enlivening properties of this medicine, calling it into action, might cause her death; yet, with a trembling hand, I at length consented to give her a course. I gave freely of the third preparation of No. 1, which vomited her a little, when she soon after went into a distressing fit; the family thought she was dying, and the neighbors flocked in to see her breathe her last. She continued in convulsions three hours, when she appeared to sink into a sort of lethargy, from which it seemed impossible to waken her; continuing so for seven hours, she awoke as though from a sound sleep, entirely unconscious of any thing that had passed since her vomiting. She continued rational for a few hours, when she went into another fit similar to the first, which continued nine hours. During the fits we had to keep her in a reclining posture, as she would suffocate and stop breathing if laid in a horizontal position. Deep red spots appeared on the bosom and neck, which gradually spread and finally all merged into one and disappeared. These fits continued afterwards, but with less frequency and violence, but lasting from ten to twenty hours, and once she lay insensible for twenty-three hours. It was utterly impossible to force any medicine down her while her fits were on. I gave her fifteen thorough emetics, and injections were after administered. I did not steam her every time I gave her an emetic, as she was so averse to it; yet, I feel sensible that she would have gained much more rapidly if she had been steamed more. After attending her ten weeks she was restored to sound health, to the surprise and astonishment of all who knew her, and enjoys good health to this day, and now works in a cotton factory.

N. B.—When I first attended her, the left side in the region of the heart appeared to be considerably swollen, and the beat of the heart could be distinctly heard. It seemed as though it was immersed in, or agitating a sac of water, in contact with it. It could be the most distinctly heard during the time of her fits. After going through six courses she reduced in size around the waist two and a half inches. The swellings of the feet, which at first were considerable, entirely disappeared.

Yours, respectfully, DAVID B. HALE.
Collinsville, (Conn.), Sept. 17, 1836.

A HORRID AND NEW MODE OF SUICIDE. — A Mr. L., who resides in the neighborhood of Veneti and Marigny, shut himself up with a female in a small out-building detached from his principal dwelling, and after having besmeared their bodies with turpentine, they placed themselves upon a heap of faggots, and set fire to the pile. When the flames were perceived, assistance immediately arrived, and the troops of the garrison of Compeigne hastened to the spot; but it was too late, — the bodies were entirely consumed. — [Paris paper.]

[From the Botanic Sentinel.]

MIDWIFERY.

Of all the causes of discontent and disquietude which prevail in the circles of social life, there is none, perhaps, that possess a stronger claim upon the attention of the philanthropist, than the pain and anguish which civilized woman appears doomed to suffer. Whatever may have been the happy condition of the human female during the early ages of the world, or whatever natural advantages may at present be possessed by the tawny mothers of the forest, it will be universally acknowledged that the original curse, — “in sorrow shalt thou bring forth children,” — still rests with unrelenting rigor upon the fair daughters of our own enlightened country. The unwearied efforts that have been made by men of learning and genius to meliorate the condition and pain of the parturient female, would naturally lead us to anticipate the happiest results. But who that has witnessed the protracted progress of a tedious labor treated with all the skill of a Denman, a Burns, or a Bodelocque, — who that has heard the despairing groan, or viewed the agonizing struggle of the fair sufferer continued from day to day, and beheld, as the last alternative, the blades of naked steel fastened upon the delicate head of the unborn infant, — who, I say, that has witnessed this heart-sickening scene of human wretchedness, will not demur at the efficacy of the obstetric art? It must be mortifying indeed to the pride of the learned accoucheurs to witness the total failure of their mightiest efforts. They have evidently overreached the object of their pursuit. They have clad the most simple and delicate art of the nursery in the masculine garb of the far-fetched sciences, which sets harshly upon it. It is not our intention presumptuously to depreciate the well-meaning endeavors of those who have labored to cultivate the art of midwifery. We shall claim the right, however, to compare facts, and to make deductions therefrom.

Woman, in a state of civilization, is exposed to the influence of a variety of casualties which tend to protract the process of parturition to more than ordinary length. These casualties, however various in their nature, generally result in a morbid rigidity of the muscular fibres, which thus becomes the proximate cause of delay. To remove this state of rigidity, then, is considered the most important indication of relief; and a remedy by which this object could be accomplished, has ever been the desideratum of the art. Blood-letting has been supposed to approach nearest to it, and is the means in popular use for that purpose. But the employment of this agent with a view to produce that degree of relaxation which is always requisite to an easy delivery, is deemed of doubtful efficacy even by those who have no other remedy to recommend. This will appear from the following admission of Dr. John Burns, whose authority is the polar star of the American accoucheur. In treating of the causes of labor,

he says: “A fundamental principle in midwifery is, that relaxation or diminution of resistance is essential to an easy delivery; and could we discover any agent capable of effecting this rapidly and safely, we should have no tedious labors except from the state of the pelvis or position of the child. This agent has not yet been discovered. Blood-letting does often produce salutary relaxation; but it is not always to be depended on, neither is it always safe.”

Now, if we sum up these admonitions, made as they are by an authority than which there is none higher, will it appear strange that many members of the faculty have entirely lost confidence in the popular practice of midwifery? Will it appear strange that they have forsaken the intricate path which led them by the brightest anticipations through the bewildering labyrinths of ancient and modern lore? Which led them, by a forced curiosity, to visit the theatres of dissection, there to behold practised upon the female form a violation that would shock the bluntest feelings of a cannibal, and which terminated, at last, in the benighted field of danger and uncertainty? But are we to rest satisfied with this state of things? Are we to consider the practice which has been inadvertently acknowledged by its adherents as both uncertain and dangerous in its effects, as the climax of all that is attainable by the progressive powers of discovery? That relaxation is essential to an easy delivery, as stated by Dr. Burns, is a fact that is evident to every one who is in the least acquainted with this subject. We frequently see the effect of this state of the muscular system, in the peculiar facility with which women are often brought to bed while laboring under the consumption, or any disease that has a tendency to relax the solids. Now, the question to which we would invite the attention of our readers, is, whether this state of relaxation cannot be speedily and safely accomplished in those cases where nature fails in her efforts to effect it?

It appears from the preceding remarks, that the faculty are in possession of no means for this purpose, upon which they can safely depend. On the contrary, we opine that the agent so much sought for in the shops of the druggist, and the laboratory of the chymist, grows spontaneously in every section of our country. That *LOBELIA INFLATA* can be employed so as to produce that state of relaxation which Dr. Burns lays down as the fundamental principle of midwifery, is a truth that will be admitted by every one who has frequently witnessed the operation of this valuable herb. We will here take the liberty to cite a case, which will tend to illustrate the remarkable degree to which the muscular fibres may be relaxed by the use of Lobelia, and its concomitant remedies: A Miss Merchant, of our acquaintance, met with an accident which occasioned a complete dislocation of the thigh bone. The most eminent surgeons were immediately sent for, who, owing to the powerful contraction which

existed in the muscles of the limb, were unable to effect a reduction. After every means had been employed which are generally resorted to on such occasions, the case was abandoned as incurable, and the young lady, anticipating herself a cripple for life, was left to hobble about upon crutches, a pitiable spectacle of professional ignorance. In this situation she continued for more than a year, when, in consequence of some temporary indisposition, she applied to Dr. Cornell, of Clinton. While she was under his care, the remedy above mentioned was administered with a liberal hand. Upon one occasion, when the system had become completely saturated with this medicine, the dislocated bone, by an accidental movement, became fixed in its natural socket, so that the young lady was immediately enabled to work with as great facility as though the accident had never occurred. The relation of this case may afford a profitable hint to the surgeon; yet the object of referring to it at this time is, to illustrate the principle on which the *Lobelia* operates in facilitating the process of parturition. For it is well known to every accoucheur that any agent capable of relaxing the muscular system generally, will, if employed during labor, produce the same effect upon the os uteri and other parts concerned in delivery. And besides the safety and certainty with which the operation of this article is characterized, it possesses another advantage over the use of the lancet, by not being followed by that protracted state of debility which is the unavoidable consequence of copious blood-letting.

W. K. GRIFFIN, M. D.

THOMSONIANS.

In answer to a communication in our last number, we have to observe, that the difference between the Thomsonians and the other Botanic Physicians, consists chiefly, first, in their totally different views and theories of disease; — second, in their almost totally different modes of treating disease; — third, in the different remedial agents which they use; — and fourth, in the superior success of the Thomsonian treatment over all others.

In the first place, Thomsonians hold that disease is a unit, consisting in debility, — that is, a reduction of vitality or the essence of life; that this debility may be general or local; that it may be induced by a thousand different causes, appear under a thousand different forms, and produce ten thousand different symptoms, but still its nature is the same; and, under whatever form it may be developed, it uniformly points one way, and tends to produce one effect, viz., death; and death is a total extinction of vitality. On the other hand, some of the Botanics, and nearly all of the regulars, hold that all the different forms of disease are each so many distinct diseases; different, and even opposite, in their natures. Hence, we so frequently hear them promulgating this most absurd and ridiculous idea, that such a patient of their's has got a complication of diseases, so opposite in their na-

ture, that they cannot relieve or cure one without aggravating another, even so as to endanger the patient's life. Good heavens! What a predicament! But only come to us, dear doctor; our heart is kind, and we will help you out! Others of these Botanics, perhaps, have never gone so far yet as to think whether the name of disease is unit or "legion."

In the second place, as regards the mode of treatment, it will be in all cases in accordance with the theory of disease which the practitioner has formed or embraced; and those who have formed no theory at all, will fall to work at their patients by guess.

In the third place, the remedies used by the Thomsonians are few in number, and efficient in action, if properly administered; except in cases where a disorganization of some important structure has taken place, or, where the vital energies are so reduced that medical aid cannot reach them; for, it should always be remembered, that medicine will not act upon dead matter. The Thomsonians always prescribe their remedies in reference to that grand fundamental principle, the unity of disease. Other Botanics prescribe various and incompatible agents, for what they imagine various and incompatible diseases; some of these agents are poisonous, and others weak and inefficient.

In the fourth place, the extraordinary success which attends the Thomsonians is proverbial. The thousands of cases they have cured, after being abandoned to die by all other physicians, irresistibly proclaim the superiority of their system of practice. But, in cases where the Thomsonians are called previous to any other physicians, they do not get so much credit as is their due, — for, they eradicate disease so quick, that they think very little ailed the patients; whereas, if they had reduced them down to the grave's mouth, by a depleting and mineral course, and then left nature to restore them, they would get a great name for having performed almost miraculous cures in raising them up from so low a state.

The Thomsonians have no connexion with any other class of Botanics, and they never pretend to be any other than Thomsonians. They have full confidence in their own system, and have no need of amalgamation; and farther, if they combine their medicines, or practise with any other, like Samson, when shorn of his locks, they lose their power, their efficacy, and become weak as other men. But, let this system stand alone, simple, pure, uncontaminated, and it may be compared to the Genius of Health, descended from its native skies, "to wipe the tear from sorrow's eye," "to bind up the broken hearted," "to unlock the prison doors," and to snatch the prey from the insatiate jaws of death.

The Thomsonians never can connect themselves with any other class of physicians, without descending from that high station on which they now stand, — high, we say, because it is the rock of truth, — the place where nature condescends to hold converse with mortals, and

unveils her mysteries to her children. We shall rejoice to see others throwing off their prejudices, and coming up to this high and holy standard which the God of nature has raised; but, be assured, that from it we will never descend. — [*Thomsonian Vindicator.*]

IGNORANCE. — The ignorant have injured Thomsonism, by not properly understanding their business; they have failed to administer a sufficient amount of medicines, in acute diseases, — or, if they administer enough, and that too, of the right kind, it is sometimes the case that the afflicted grow worse at the time the medicine is making an impression on the system. If the physician, then, does not understand his business, and is not capable of explaining to his patients the effect of the medicine administered, and gets alarmed himself, it would, of course, alarm the patients, and consequently make them worse than they would otherwise have been. In this situation, both physician and patient alarmed, a second one is called in, and that too, of another order; when he arrives, he finds that his new employer is more scared than sick, and, of course, administers in the first place a dose of consolation, in the second a large amount of abuse, at the expense of Dr. Thomson and the unskilful practitioner, and, in the third place, the lancet or opium or some mineral poison. By this time, the patient gets over his fright, and feels considerably relieved, and ready to assert with his new physician, that, had he continued taking Dr. Thomson's medicines, he would have been a dead man. By this means the second physician gets the praise and money that the first would have got had he been in possession of more judgment.

It is probable that some such considerations as the above, caused the United States Thomsonian Convention, held in Richmond, (Va.), Nov. 18th, 1835, to take into consideration the propriety of building a bulwark against such opposers as the above, by passing a resolution to establish a National Infirmary and Medical School, which we hope will succeed. — [*Thomsonian Defender.*]

A STOCKING NEEDLE IN THE HEART. — An inquest was lately held in Birmingham, (Eng.) on the body of a man unknown, who died suddenly. From the evidence of the people in the house it appeared that the deceased, who represented himself to have walked from Manchester, called and engaged lodgings. In the course of the evening he was asked if any thing should be obtained for him? when he replied that he required nothing, and was so fatigued that he would retire to rest. The following morning, before he rose from bed, he complained of being ill, and expired in the course of a few minutes after. The suddenness of the death of the deceased man was immediately communicated to the coroner, who directed that a *post mortem* examination should take place. Two physi-

cians opened the body, but they perceived no cause of death, until, upon an examination of the heart, they discovered a stocking needle, three inches and a half in length, run through the heart! The body was subsequently examined by three physicians, and the opinion of these gentlemen was, that the needle had been lodged in the heart for some days, and, from appearances, had been introduced through the ribs; but whether by accident or design, they were unable to say. The only appearance from which it could be supposed that the needle was introduced between the ribs, was a little healed wound, something like, upon the exterior, the appearance of a bite by a flea.

WRONG TO BE SICK. — "I take the ground that a person has no right to be sick," said an eminent physician the other day.

"But you have a cold yourself," we observed.

"Yes," said he, "but I ought to have one. I caught it foolishly. While in a perspiration last evening, I took off my coat, and though I at length began to be chilly, I neglected, for some time, to put it on. Now common sense ought to have taught me, or any other person, that I should not be likely to get rid of my chill by remaining with my coat off. But I neglected to attend to myself, and now am suffering the just consequences. And thus it is with most of our diseases. We bring them upon ourselves, by breaking the organic law in one way or another; and then we must suffer the penalty."

How just are these sentiments. And yet we fear another century will pass, and a thousand millions of human beings only live out half their days, before such sentiments will be generally received and acted upon.

If the public should ever get their eyes open on this subject, we shall not find them on the one hand worshipping their physicians, or, like Balaam, turning aside to "enchantments" or incantations, nor on the other despising them. Physicians, — if wise, — are a class of citizens whose influence is valuable, if it could be only properly directed. We want them to teach us how to prevent disease; and it is very much to be regretted that their talents and skill should be forever misplaced by being expended only in "patching up," when it would be far better to prevent the necessity of it. — [*Moral Ref.*]

DISORDERS. — "Few persons," observes a celebrated English surgeon, "are attacked by dangerous disorders without due notice and repeated warnings. I never knew an instance of apoplexy or palsy, until after many previous intimations, nor any serious affections of the stomach, bowels or liver, without the precedence of some morbid visitation, such as headache, flatulence, acidity or local pain. It is more than probable that inflammatory diseases occur only in vitiated habits; and when they seem to arise spontaneously, or to be occasioned by inadequate causes, they are in truth but roused into activity, and owe their origin to an ill state."



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—Milton.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 15, 1836.

A GULL TRAP TO CATCH STRANGERS. — A large, four story house, 554 Washington street, (Boston,) near the Worcester Railroad, on which is a large and splendid sign, in glaring letters, "*Thomsonian Botanic Infirmary*," by which is meant, or people suppose it to mean, DR. SAMUEL THOMSON'S INFIRMARY. This sign was erected by John A. Brown. He sent a large and splendid advertisement in all directions, — people flocked together from all quarters, and poured into this gull trap; they put themselves under his care, — bought spurious articles for genuine Thomsonian medicine, supposing him to be an Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson. But Dr. Thomson forbid his selling any medicine in his name, and demanded that he should pull down his [Dr. Thomson's] sign, and put up his own. He refused; on which he was threatened a prosecution. He then sold out to one Badger, and went to Providence, R. I., where he set up a similar gull trap, and is now gulling the people there. Badger gulled the people about two years under the above sign. He, also, was demanded to take it down; but he, in like manner, refused. He continued to commit great outrages in the name of Dr. Thomson, inso-much that he found, or perhaps feared, that a presentment to the grand jury would soon take place, wherefore he sold out to a man by the name of Magoon, who was partner with Hosea Winchester, defendant in the late suit in the Supreme Court with Dr. Thomson, for selling and offering for sale many tons of spurious as well as counterfeit articles, and who warranted them all as pure Thomsonian medicine. This Winchester has a similar sign for gulling the people. He, also, has a sign, on which he has "Shaker Medicine." In the late trial of Hosea Winchester, facts were elicited which have shook the credit of the Shaker Thomsonian Medicine, sold by their Agent and Trustee for

the United Society of Shakers at Harvard. It was, much of it at least, of the most spurious and adulterated kind; a sample of the preparations will be exhibited at Dr. Samuel Thomson's, 33 Washington street, by J. Q. Adams; and at Dr. Clark's Infirmary, 23 Harvard street; also, at Dr. Watkins's Infirmary, Dover, N. H. At all of these places will be found, also, the pure, unadulterated Thomsonian [alias Samuel Thomson's] medicine, where all true Thomsonians will call; and those who are not Agents are requested to call as usual on Hosea Winchester for *Shaker* medicine, not *Thomsonian*.

Now as the people have been gulled by the foregoing persons, greatly to the injury of the proprietor and the public generally, we will here give a sample or two of those trespassers who make use of Dr. Thomson's name to impose on him and the public; and that, too, for their own speculation, regardless of the lives and health of their fellow creatures, or of the character of Dr. Thomson, as exemplified by Winchester's selling Shaker medicine. Read the following:

This will certify that a gentleman from the State of Maine, whose wife has been troubled with the rheumatism for about ten years, and having almost every medical aid, but to no effect, was advised to try the Thomsonian system. He, therefore, came to this city about five weeks ago, and, not being acquainted, he went to the Infirmary in Washington street, near the Railroad, and enquired if *old Dr. Thomson* was within? He was told by a gentleman [?] in the room that he was, who said, I will call him. He stepped into the other room and immediately returned with another gentleman, [?] and introduced him as Dr. Thomson! The man then related the situation of his wife, and the *Doctor* said he could cure her if he would fetch her there; and if he did not cure her, he would charge him nothing for his services. The man then returned to the State of Maine. A few days since he returned to this city with his wife, very feeble indeed, and he called at the same Infirmary in Washington street, near the Railroad, and enquired of the same person if Dr. Thomson was within? and was told that Dr. Thomson did not keep there, but that Dr. Magoon kept there!! He then called in the Doctor, and introduced him as Dr. Magoon, the same man that was introduced to him before as Dr. Thomson!!! The gentleman is ready to testify to the above,

Signed,

JACOB SARGENT,
WILLIAM R. COOMBS.

Boston, Dec. 6, 1836.

This certifies that I was in conversation with Dr. Magoon, 554 Washington street, concerning the above named Dr. Thomson, and he said

that neither Benjamin nor Jesse Thompson had been at his house for one or two years. He, therefore, must have meant Dr. Samuel Thomson.

Signed, ANDREW WATKINS.
Boston, Dec. 7, 1836.

This certifies that my brother, being very much diseased with a humor, through the advice of myself and wife, concluded to apply to a Thomsonian physician; and on Sunday last he started without much ceremony for a Thomsonian Infirmary, on foot and alone. He left word that he was going to the Thomsonian head quarters, where he would have the benefit of Dr. Thomson's knowledge himself. On Monday, by the request of his wife and mother, I went to hunt him up; and knowing where the Thomsonian head quarters were, there of course I expected to find him. But he was not there, nor had he been there; and knowing his limited knowledge of their concerns, I supposed he had mistaken the place; after hunting a while, I found that he had been to Magoon's, 554 Washington street. I enquired of him how he happened to go there? He said that he supposed that to be the head quarters of Thomsonism, and that by going there he would have the benefit of Dr. Thomson's advice; and he did not know of his mistake until I informed him of it, after he had come away.

Signed, ICHABOD LINDSEY.
Charlestown, Dec. 7, 1836.

In addition to the foregoing, while on this subject, we would state that there can be no reasonable doubt but that thousands of people have been deceived under the name of Thomsonian Medicine. In the late trial of Hosea Winchester, it was proved that tons of medicine of various kinds have been sold here, and sent by the defendant [Hosea Winchester] to Georgia, Mobile and New Orleans, without the least authority from Dr. Thomson. Ward Sears & Co., now Sears & Larrabee, under the name of Thomsonian medicine, and through the sanction of a false Society, alluded to in Dr. Thomson's Address, have also a mill to grind their articles in, the better to impose on the public.—There are many others at the South which should be guarded against. Let their names be forwarded to us that they may appear among our list of *Counterfeiters* in the Manual. Fortunes have been made with Thomson's name, while he suffers the reproach of their misdeeds, the failure of the practice owing to spurious medicine, &c. Among the number alluded to, are Elias Smith, of Boston, Mass.; Charles Holman, of Portsmouth, N. H.; Sears & Larrabee, Baltimore, Md.; not to mention the whole catalogue of trespassers, whose names will be found in our list. Now all the compensation that Dr.

Thomson has for all this, is, to hear of the wonderful *improvements* that *they have made* on his System; and while they are willing to award him some little credit for the discovery, yet because he will not give the whole of it away, *he is a monopolist*, and has become thereby *so rich*, that it *justifies them in robbing him* of all that they can in any way in his name, but so as barely evade the law. Let any one else make a valuable discovery, and devote his whole life to bring it to the knowledge of the public, so as to leave it for their benefit, and then see if they would like to be robbed in the same way. To prevent which, let the name *Thomsonian* be dropped in future unless it is known to be identically the same, and no other, than SAMUEL THOMSON. The reason why Dr. Thomson let the whole of his discovery be known, was, that the knowledge might come to the public, in its pure state, while it was yet his; but many people have been, and still are, disposed to avail themselves of this knowledge to trespass on his rights. Let people, therefore, in future, when they are about to buy medicine, enquire, not for *Thomsonian Medicine*, which has now become the name of all vegetable medicine, but for medicine made and prepared by SAMUEL THOMSON.

TO DETECT FRAUD AND DECEPTION.

TO THE PUBLIC.—All or any persons who have been deceived at both or either of the foregoing named places by these false signs, and have been attended at the before mentioned Infirmary, or have purchased medicine, supposing it to be the residence or medicine of Dr. Samuel Thomson, are requested to send their names, with the particulars of the case, to J. Q. Adams, 33 Washington street, or to William Clark, or to myself, 23 Harvard street Infirmary; also to Dr. A. Watkins's Infirmary, Dover, N. H.; and every attention shall be paid to them, either for genuine medicine, or to bring such deceivers to justice.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

P. S. An account of the late trial with Hosea Winchester, will be given in our next.

S. T.

It will be seen by Dr. Dow's advertisements, that he has been invited, and returned, from Newburyport and fitted a genteel establishment at No. 7 Brattle street, in this city.—We hope he will be well supported, as he merits it.—[Ed.]

[Original.]

A CASE OF MIDWIFERY.

The practice of Midwifery, as will readily be conceded, is one of the most important branches of the practice of medicine. There is no branch of medical science, perhaps, that has been more abused — that has done more injury — and occasioned a greater amount of suffering and grief, than the “fashionable” practice in this. It is a delicate subject, it is true, to bring before the public; but, when we take into consideration its vast importance, no prudish notions of false delicacy ought to weigh any thing in our minds, to prevent the discussion of a topic so deeply interesting to all who have at heart the welfare of suffering humanity, or the general good of the community.

The following extracts from a letter which was written to a gentleman at New Orleans, in October last, but which, owing to some fortuitous circumstances, was not sent, are now published with the hope that they may subserve, in some degree, the cause of Thomsonism; and it is the intention of the writer hereafter to devote some portion of his time to the advancement of the interests of Thomsonism, and, as he sincerely trusts, the cause of humanity. That his misfortune has been great, the extracts will fully suffice to prove; and that their publication may be of some benefit to his fellow men, is the only reason why he has given them publicity. — J. C.

“Boston, Oct. 25th, 1836.

“FRIEND J——. Your wife informed me that she had communicated to you the intelligence of my wife’s decease; if you have not received that letter, Mrs. B. has probably acquainted you with the fact. Yes, Mr. J., the dearest friend I ever had on earth *is now no more*. The stroke was as unexpected as it was severe. My prospects of happiness are all blasted in the bud. I can now, were it not for my children, exclaim with Cassius, that I am “awearry of the world.” She was the world to me. — Upon her I built all my hopes of happiness; and for years I have enjoyed nothing that was not participated in by her. But still I never felt how much I loved, until called to part. It was then I felt in very truth that we were indeed “ONE;” and when the fearful night arrived that closed her life, I felt as though my heart had been pierced by some barbed instrument. Indeed, my sensations *may*, perhaps, be imagined, but cannot be described. She has left a nursing infant, and a child three years old, — they need their mother; my wife was one of the best of mothers, besides being an affectionate wife, and dutiful child. No one can do for her children as she could; and I can never find one who will so well correspond to my disposition. Our ideas of the government of children, as indeed of every thing else of moment, were the same.

“My friend, I have lost near relatives before. I have buried my mother, — the next dearest tie to wife, — and I could have buried my children, brothers, aye, every other friend I have, without so much regret as I now experience. I feel desolate and forsaken. My friends offer consolation, but it only irritates, — it does not heal the wound. Would that it could! But what makes me the more inconsolable, is the fact that she, for whom I would cheerfully have sacrificed even life itself, — she, whose only happiness was to enhance mine, came to an untimely grave! And I have no remedy! But I seek none. I cannot get *justice*, and my wife’s spirit admonishes me not to seek *revenge*. She had always rather suffer wrong than resent injuries. But I will make myself understood by you, and you can decide.

“First, then, I would inform you, that myself, wife, and her mother, were in favor of the Thomsonian medicine, and we had resolved that my wife, at her then approaching accouchment, should have a Thomsonian nurse to attend her. For this purpose one was engaged; but, alas, at the time I went for her, her husband was lying dangerously ill, so that she could not possibly attend. She recommended me to go for a Mrs. —, a midwife of considerable reputation and experience, and not unfriendly, as I understood, to the Thomsonian practice. I went for her, but unfortunately she was engaged with a person out of the city. Her daughter, whom I spoke with at the house, said she thought if we could not wait for her mother, that she had better go herself. Presuming that she would not have offered herself had she not felt competent, and that her practice would be similar to that of her mother, I thought it best for her to attend, as it was late at night, and I could not, perhaps, find any one soon enough, if I went elsewhere. My wife’s health, previous to this time, had been good, and before leaving home, I had given her some Thomsonian medicine, which had had a very beneficial effect.

“When I arrived with the midwife, I found my wife was doing well, as the midwife herself said. I was requested to leave the room, which I did, it being then about eleven o’clock in the evening. My wife’s mother and a female friend were in attendance, and the former said once or twice when she came out of the room, that she did not like the method of proceeding of the midwife; but as she did not tell me any thing in particular, and as the midwife was so very much opposed to my coming into the room, that, fearing she might leave my wife if I did, and hoping that still there might be a favorable issue, I remained quiet until after the child was born, when the midwife came down to me in great trepidation, and called for laudanum, and asked me to get a horse and chaise and take her into Boston, and bring out her mother. I then went to see my wife, and found her in such a situation that I did not believe she could possibly live whilst I should go to the city and back;

therefore, I administered to her some Thomsonian medicine, and this relieved her. I then got the midwife out of the house as soon as it could be effected; and after she had gone, and I ascertained how my wife had been treated, I wondered that she was still alive! I found that the midwife had substituted *art*, or rather *force*, for nature. Her treatment had occasioned my wife *more suffering*, as she herself affirmed, *than her natural labor pains*. This treatment,—as might naturally be expected,—turned into unnatural channels all the courses of nature, and caused a very profuse flooding; to remedy which, cold water was applied in such quantities as to completely saturate all the bed-clothes and the bed itself, so that it ran through to the floor! Upon this uncomfortable bed was my wife compelled to lie, in that deplorable situation; and she had been kept so cold by raising the windows, &c., that she actually suffered from this cause as well as the others. As a natural result of all these causes,—which had occasioned an entire derangement of the nervous system,—my wife took a violent cold, which, by producing an obstruction in the bowels, caused the circulation to strike to the head, and effected so great a pressure on those delicate organs of the brain, that mental alienation followed, but in so slight a degree,—as sufficient medicine only had been given to prevent in part the effect, but not to remove the cause,—that we imputed her derangement to nervousness, and did not realize her situation until one week from the time of her confinement. She had then, perhaps, taken a little additional cold, and her alienation now became so apparent that we began to feel very seriously alarmed, and not without cause.

“Whilst she was so much herself that I could induce her to take medicine, I frequently relieved her, even when we thought her dying; but as her insanity increased, her unwillingness to have any thing done for her increased likewise, and, at the earnest solicitation of my friends, I sent for a regular physician. This step I shall ever regret, so firm is my confidence in the Thomsonian medicine. He attended her a fortnight, and then gave her over. She died the night of the last day he attended her. I observed very particularly all that he did, and if I had reason for not having confidence in the regular practice before, those reasons were strengthened and increased by my observations of his course of proceeding. I do not wish to be considered as speaking of him as a man, but only of his system, which is that of all the regular practitioners. As a man, I respect him as a gentleman and a scholar, a man of feeling and benevolence; and have reason to believe, that, had his skill been equal to his wishes, I should not now be a lonely wanderer.—He is considered an eminent physician, and is, doubtless, as successful as any others who practise upon the same system. From all my dear-bought experience, I would solemnly warn every one who is likely to have a wife in a similar

situation with mine, to remain in the room with her at all hazards,—to leave her on no account,—but to assist her all in their power until her trouble is over; and on no consideration, *as they value their wives' existence*, TO ALLOW FORCE TO BE USED.”

The foregoing extracts, it will be observed, were not originally intended for publication, but only as a communication from friend to friend. The writer intends to prepare some further remarks upon the above case, and the two opposing systems of mineral and botanic practice, for future numbers of the Manual.—J. C.

[Original.]

Newburyport, Oct. 22, 1836.

DR. S. THOMSON,—Dear Sir: You had the kindness to present to the public, through the columns of the Thomsonian Manual, a few interesting cases cured by me. I beg leave, at this time, to trouble you with a few more, in a very brief manner:

Mr. Adams Knight, of this town, who had been under the care of one of the first M. D.'s in this vicinity for several months, for a tightness across the lungs or chest, accompanied with a severe pain in the left breast, extending to the back of his neck. Treatment.—I bathed very freely with No. 6 or rheumatic drops; carried him through seven courses, one about every other day; recommended the bitters to be taken from six to ten times a day. He soon recovered his health again.

Mr. Richards had been troubled with a violent cough for several months, moving pain in the chest, was thought to be in a decline. I administered the cough powder three times a day, gave him three courses of medicine at suitable intervals, and bathed the chest thoroughly twice a day with the rheumatic drops. In a few weeks his health was entirely restored.

Miss Coffin, of this town, was troubled with a shocking cough. I feared, at first, that she had applied to me too late; but concluded to give her one course, and directed her to use the composition six times a day, and she recovered her health. It is nearly one year since, and she is yet well; so much for “temporary relief.”

A young man, by the name of Shaw, who had been for two years declining with that horrid disease, dyspepsia, had given up all hope of life, as the learned M. D. who attended him could give him nothing without increasing the difficulty, and he would allow him only one tea-spoonful of nourishment at a time! (who wonders at the man's dying situation?) In this desperate condition I undertook to cure him. I first gave him golden seal for a few days, as much as ten times a day, each dose consisting of a tea-spoonful in a cupful of boiling hot water, sweetened. A few days after administered

a thorough course of medicine every other day, until his system was cleared of mucus. Then toned him up with syrup and the bitters. In three months he had entirely recovered, and is now in business again, to the great surprise of his friends.

A lady of your city, Miss Reeves, came to me in a very low state with the liver complaint. By her friends her recovery was considered exceedingly doubtful, as well as by myself. I carried her through three courses of medicine, prepared a very strong tea from the golden seal, and administered it six times a day, together with strong clysters composed of Nos. 1 and 2; then followed up with another composed of the golden seal or slippery elm, strong. She soon got well.

A Mr. Jewett, of Byfield, was thought to be in a decline. I called it the liver complaint. My treatment was, six courses of medicine, and a strong tea of golden seal, the latter to be taken ten times a day. His health was speedily established.

A Mr. J. Head, of Exeter, was for several months afflicted with a pain in the stomach. He had employed many M. D.'s, but without any good effects resulting from their labors. A journey of eighteen miles to a steam doctor, and two courses of medicine, worked a cure in one week.

A Mr. Eaton, of West Newbury, had a pain in his stomach of long standing. He was cured by two courses, and by following up with four ounces of composition, and four ounces of bitters, at home.

A Mr. Dimett, of this town, was afflicted with the dropsy for seven months, during which time he was under the care of an M. D., (I suppose because he had money in abundance, or because the doctor had not *quite skill* enough.) Several times in the course of this interval he was supposed to be dying. He sent for me, and desired I would call on him in the night, as he was afraid of affronting his *skilful* doctor. I returned him answer, that if I was sure I could cure him, I would not call at any other time except at mid-day; and if he did not like that, he might drink poison until he *got well*. He sent word directly back that I could call at any hour I pleased. I ran the risk of saying I could cure him, and upon this he came at once to my infirmary, where I restored him to health in two weeks.

A Mr. Robinson, of Brintwood, who had been four years under the treatment of several different regular physicians, for what, by some was called, a general debility, by others nervousness. He was suffering at times with a pain in the stomach, his head became confused, and occasionally he was almost blind; at other times he appeared very melancholy, (and well he might be.) The doctors had bled him, and applied a great number of blisters, and made an issue in his leg, all for the purpose of curing him; but it had just the effect that a boy ten years of age, of common sense, would have foretold, — the pa-

tient grew worse and worse. He came about thirty miles to see me, and I gave him five courses, steamed him every day, and followed up with the composition and bitters ten times a day. In three weeks I counted one hundred and sixty biles on this man's body; and in three weeks more, he said he was as healthy as any person in the State of Massachusetts.

A Mr. Boardman, of Amesbury Mills, came to me last Spring, troubled with the painter's colic, so called, a disorder occasioned by the nature of his business. I gave him three courses of medicine, and directed him to use the bitters and composition freely, which he did, and has not had one attack since.

Miss P. Hail, of Rowley, was down to death's door, with her system full of obstructions, which caused the palpitation of the heart to such a degree, that it was often thought she was past recovery. I told her I could cure her. She came to my house, and the first night after her arrival, she was taken with palpitations to so great an extent, that she could not sit up in bed without fainting and losing her breath; for four days she was in this situation, and I could not give the medicine, as she was apprehensive it would increase the palpitation, in which case she said she could not live a moment. On the fourth day, thinking to calm her feelings, I told her I should not give her the medicine at all, as I supposed her excited. Upon her declaring that she was not, I told her she must take a dose of medicine, to which she consented. I prepared a powerful emetic in No. 2 only, and before she got all the medicine down, the palpitation of the heart was *perfectly natural*! and she has not been troubled in that way since, though she has had eight courses of medicine, which have about cleared her system. She is now a very influential friend of the Botanic system. This one cure will do more for our cause than any one cure performed in all my practice.

Mr. J. Babb, of Salisbury, was thought to be in a consumption; by administering two courses of medicine, together with suitable tonics, he entirely recovered.

Capt. Conner, of this town, was for several months troubled with a pain at the stomach and in the chest, loss of appetite, &c. I gave powerful tonics, which, with carrying him through three courses of medicine, effected his recovery.

Mr. Sawyer, of West Amesbury, was cured of bleeding at the lungs by two courses, and the use of the bitters (golden seal) to tone up.

A lady was cured of the bleeding piles of ten years' standing by four courses, and clysters every day for three weeks, with a free use of coffee No. 3, as a drink.

Mr. Sargent, of West Amesbury, was cured of a bilious fever by three courses, and a very strong tea of golden seal.

Mr. Emery, of the same place, was cured of a pain in the stomach of several years' duration, by two courses. This man was a great opposer of me when I came here; now he is one of my best friends, — so we gain.

An M. D., who is in practice in a neighboring town, brought his wife to me, whose case is described in Miss Hail's, before mentioned. He declared his full confidence in the Botanic system. She is now using the medicine, and no doubt will get well. This gentleman is endeavoring to aid me all in his power, and says he shall soon adopt the Thomsonian system of practice, so well convinced is he of its beneficial result.

Respectfully, yours, &c., AARON DOW.

[The statement of several other cures performed by Dr. Dow, we are obliged to postpone, by the press of other matter, to our next number. We should have been pleased to have inserted entire his interesting communication, but the previous occupation of our pages will not at this time permit it.—ED.]

DR. THOMSON'S ADDRESS

To the Fifth Friendly Botanical Convention.

GENTLEMEN: Having seen a notice in the Recorder, giving encouragement of my personal attendance at this Convention, my absence may be a disappointment to many or all of the members. In that case I can only say to you, that I never gave but little encouragement to any one. But I never came to a full conclusion not to go, until this day at Columbus. After obtaining the best information with regard to bad roads, I found it would be more laborious than my journey from Boston, which undertaking I thought too laborious for a man of my age, and at this season of the year. The above, I hope, will be an ample apology for not undertaking this task. Notwithstanding that I cannot be with you in person, yet my mind is in constant labor in the cause with you. The harvest is great, the laborers but few, still the System has been crowned with unparalleled success; almost as miraculous as was that of Elijah conquering nations with his staff and lamp; so also have I and a few faithful followers conquered the medical faculty, and caused them to flee to the protection of the law, to which we have driven them by my weapons of lobelia in one hand, and cayenne pepper in the other, aided by the destructive effects of their own medicine. We have gathered the people and instructed them to cure their own infirmities, under whatever name the faculty might give them. I called the first United States Convention, which met at Columbus, Ohio, in December, 1832. In assembling that Convention I spent about three months, which was attended with the anxiety to relieve both the body and mind of the people, by enabling them to relieve themselves and families of one of the greatest plagues that ever infested the earth, called the *Malignant Spasmodic Asiatic Cholera*, alias, the Doctors and their preventives.

Four Annual Conventions have I attended in person, and have given that information which

money could not purchase; and I flatter myself that, in your fifth, you will keep united in the simple principles I have laid down, and not go to reform or amalgamate with other systems, which are all grounded in part on my foundation, and take away the simplicity from the people by complications. If so, your labor will be abundantly crowned with success; but, on the other hand, should some of you pretend, as has been the case with Smith, Miles, Rogers, Howard, and others, for the sake of filthy lucre, to improve on my plan, while they only intermix and counterfeit and do away the simplicity of my system, and sell cheap medicines, and thus cheat their patients out of their lives; in this case, the house becomes divided against itself and cannot stand. A striking instance of this kind appeared in our Convention at Richmond last year, under the sanction of a society falsely called the *Friendly Botanic Thomsonian Society of Maryland*, who sent their delegates, as I have every reason to believe, from what I learned, to revolutionize the Convention, because they could not succeed in Baltimore to palm a man as Agent on me who I knew was not capable of transacting my business, and doing justly by the people.

Should the above named Society make any communication to this Convention, I hope the members will meet the same in the spirit of contempt so justly merited. A large quantity of spurious medicines, as well as counterfeit, have been and are daily palmed upon the public as Thomsonian. In order to obviate this evil, I would caution our friends and the public in general, and by so doing would save many valuable lives, not to receive any medicine except from regular General Agents or Sub-Agents.

The places where genuine medicines can, at all times, be obtained, and gentlemen who act as General Agents, are as follows:—Samuel Thomson & Co., Boston, Mass.; Godfrey Meyer & Co., Baltimore, Md.; Horatio Wood, Columbus, Ohio.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I would recommend the appointment of a committee to take the subject of our grievances into consideration, and, if possible, to suggest some plan to do away the difficulties.

By complying with my request, you will confer everlasting blessings on the present generation as well as those to come.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Columbus, Oct. 4th, 1836.

REPORT A.

The Committee on Dr. Thomson's Address, appointed to consider the subject of spurious, inefficient, damaged and quack or secret medicines, sold, bought, used or recommended, by Thomsonians, beg leave to Report:

That, having considered the evidences laid before us on these subjects, we are persuaded that many failures in attempts to save the lives of men, and much injury to the Thomsonian Practice, and hindrance to its general diffusion, have arisen from the sale and purchase, use and re-

commendation, of medicines either damaged or spurious, and that still greater mischief is daily done in both these respects, by the adoption and use of compounds whose component parts and proportions are confined to the heads of the professed discoverers of some great improvement.

On the subject of the defective and the spurious medicines, we would recommend to the Thomsonian fraternity to purchase medicines only of those persons in whose acquaintance with the genuine articles in their best state, and in whose fidelity and honor in fair dealing, they can place the utmost confidence; and we would earnestly advise all who possess a Family Right to gather and cure for themselves, while in their best state, all the Thomsonian remedies with which they are *certainly* well acquainted.

On the subject of secret or quack nostrums, we would recommend to every one who professes to be a Thomsonian in principle, — yes, who is not wholly regardless whether he kills or cures his patient, and who is unwilling to rate himself so low as to become the mere tool to deal out any thing and every thing at the pleasure of the holder of the secret, — to abandon their use altogether. Satisfied that many of our friends have been led into the use and recommendation of secret nostrums without due reflection on the downward and backward tendency of such a course, we beg leave to be indulged in a few remarks. The reason why we have rejected the prescriptions and *secret* medicines of the Regular Faculty, and adopted the Thomsonian, is, that to us, at least, the prescriptions of the former are not fairly laid open, either in respect to the principle on which they are given, or the nature and character of the ingredients, or their specific effect on the system; — while those of the latter, in all these respects, are made plain to the comprehension of the most illiterate patient, and adequate to the removal of all forms of disease. The moment, therefore, a Thomsonian uses a syrup, or paste, or pill, with whose ingredients and proportions he is not permitted to become acquainted, he virtually acknowledges the inability of the Thomsonian Practice to conquer all forms of disease, and returns to the use of quackery and mystery, “like the dog to his vomit, or the sow that has been washed, to her wallowing in the mire.” It matters not that they who prepared these articles to our hand profess to be Thomsonians, Botanics, &c. Is it any consolation to a person that is duped and robbed, to be told that his professed friend had done it? No more can it be to us, after we lose our child, our parent or bosom friend, by tampering with pills, plasters, drops, &c., of whose nature and powers we are ignorant, till disease gets entirely the upper hand, instead of giving at once a full Thomsonian course, &c., of whose power to remove the most obstinate forms of disease, we have had the most abundant evidence.

We, therefore, respectfully recommend to the Convention, the adoption of the following:

1. *Resolved*, That this Convention recommend

to all friends of the Thomsonian Medical Practice, to use only those medicines which they have gathered and prepared for themselves, or purchased of others in whose ability to select the best articles and honesty in dealing, they have the utmost confidence.

2. *Resolved*, That we also recommend to every true Thomsonian, to reject, invariably and forever, the use, internal or external, of any remedy with whose nature, character and action, — whose ingredients and proportions, he may not be acquainted. Respectfully submitted.

REPORT B.

ADDRESS

Of the Convention of the Friendly Botanic Society of the United States, to the whole Thomsonian Fraternity; and also to the community at large:

FRIENDS AND FELLOW LABORERS IN THE CAUSE OF MEDICAL REVOLUTION: After several days' deliberation, and after receiving information from every quarter, on the progress and success of our cause, our hearts are enlarged in gratitude to the Giver of all good, and to Dr. Samuel Thomson, the instrument he has been pleased to use, for the introduction to our notice, into our families, and the several portions of the community from which we came, a system of medical practice, an art of preventing and curing disease, altogether unrivalled by any other to be found on the records of medical history.

We assure you, friends, that the facts developed at this Convention give us the most abundant cause to adhere still more firmly than before to our former determination never to suffer the use, in our persons or families, of poisonous drugs, or any life-destroying processes; but to confine our remedial means to substances and processes whose nature and effects are in perfect harmony with the laws of vital action. We are furthermore impelled, by the noblest feelings of our hearts, to exert ourselves, and recommend to you the most diligent exertions, to spread this benevolent provision for humanity among the sons and daughters of affliction wherever we have influence.

To you who have formed yourselves into Societies, we respectfully recommend a conformity in your Constitutions to the Constitution of this Society. But, in case difficulties should arise among you, in relation to any of your proceedings, or their conformity with ours, we respectfully advise you that we have no other power to settle such matters, than what may be exerted by our friendly admonitions.

On the subject of Licences to general practitioners, we remark that we consider them not as authority given to one person to exercise a monopoly over his fellow; but merely as the expressions of the opinions of those who give them, that A, B and C, are well qualified to practise generally, and as recommendations of said persons to public patronage. Any Society has a right to receive or demand whatever fee

it thinks proper for such a license; but to attempt to prevent the practice of a mere Right-holder when and wherever his services are solicited, were to approach so near the regular medical law-leg system, that we beg leave to be excused from lending it our countenance.

To our friends and fellow citizens who have not yet thought proper to adopt our favorite system of medical practice, we respectfully state, that we have discovered in this practice a well-grounded assurance of speedy and certain relief for all the suffering and sorrow that follow in the train of what is properly termed disease; and we cordially recommend to them its adoption and use, as the greatest blessing yet known for the comfort of the body. We can have no motive in deceiving you, — we seek not you but yours; yea, gladly would we make large sacrifices, could we persuade you to save to yourselves much money and secure health and happiness by the adoption of our system. On the other hand, should you take our advice and find yourselves deceived, we should lose our character for veracity, and be found false witnesses for this system, without even the advantage of the least remuneration. We speak as unto wise men, judge ye what we say.

[COMMUNICATED.]

TO THE INHABITANTS OF CAMBRIDGEPORT, AND THE PUBLIC.—I feel myself called upon, in justice to the Thomsonian System of Practice, and to those who are in any wise interested in the same, to state, that my wife, who died at Cambridgeport on the thirteenth of October last, was *not* attended during her sickness by either Dr. Wright, of Cambridgeport, or *any other* Thomsonian practitioner. Whoever has taken the liberty to set afloat such a report, has stated that which is *absolutely false*.

For the satisfaction of those gossiping individuals who have felt it *their duty to interest themselves so much in this matter*, I will state that my wife was attended at her accouchment by Miss Alexander, of Boston, daughter of Mrs. Alexander, of B., who is pretty well known as a midwife. That afterwards she was attended by Dr. Fisher, of Boston, who resides in Hayward place, and is pretty generally known. He attended her between ten and fifteen days before her decease, and visited her the day on which she died.

Whatever other persons may be disposed to say or think upon this matter, however, it will always be a source of deep and sincere regret to me, that I *did not* have a Thomsonian doctor; yet, in justice to Dr. Fisher, I must say, that he seemed disposed to do, and I think did do, all that was in his power. But from the situation she was in, and which, it is my opinion, was occasioned by the treatment she received at her accouchment, I do not think it was in the power of any one who practices upon the old system, to have given her any relief.—Be this as it may, I again repeat, that Dr. Fisher's kind attention, and the interest he mani-

festing in regard to the situation of my wife, entitled him to my esteem and gratitude. And it is a matter of regret to me, that he is wasting his strength and life, and talents upon a system which is opposed to nature, and which cannot but be regarded as inefficacious, in most cases, if not generally unsafe and useless.

I may, and probably shall, resume this subject again, at some future time, and until then I would be much obliged to those individuals who have been circulating these malicious falsehoods, if they would pay a little regard to the important matter of attending to their *own* business; but, should they wish any positive information upon this subject, if they will take the trouble to call upon me, I shall be happy to communicate my sentiments to them, and any knowledge which they may wish to attain, not doubting but that I am as *well*, if not a *little better* acquainted with the circumstances of the case, than any one else. This method would be the most proper one for them to pursue, and might prove the most judicious, by saving the feelings of those who are *really* the most interested in the matter, and whose feelings may *possibly* be sufficiently poignant, without the addition of the gall and wormwood of slander and detraction.

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN.

Boston, Nov. 14, 1836.

East Walpole, Oct. 3, 1836.

Dr. CLARK, — Dear Sir: I embrace this opportunity to inform you that my child has perfectly recovered from his severe fit of sickness; (thanks to the Thomsonian medicines for this happy result.) He had a severe fit about ten minutes after you left him, and, from the condition in which he was at that time, I did not think he would live until morning, and for three days after he was in great distress in his head. But we administered the medicine freely that you left, according to your directions, which had the desired effect of restoring him to health, contrary to the expectations of many acquainted with the alarming nature of his sickness. He does not remember any thing that transpired on the Saturday or Sunday that you were here.

How can I express my gratitude to you, my dear Sir, and the venerable Thomson, who I consider the means of saving my life, as well as that of my child, better than in the language of Burns? I send you and the worthy Dr. Thomson my warmest wishes "that fortune may never throw your subsistence on the mercy of a knave, or set your characters on the judgment of a fool. But, upright and erect, may you walk to an honest and peaceful grave, when men of worth will say, 'here lies the man who did honor to human nature.'"

Yours, with respect,

THEODORE CARLISLE.

To pronounce a man happy merely because he is rich, is just as absurd as to call a man healthy because he has enough to eat.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, JANUARY 15, 1836.

[NUMBER 3.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, and sent to subscribers on the following

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Twelve copies will be sent to any person *one* year who will remit us *ten dollars* at one time.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, or JOHN Q. ADAMS

[Original.]

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

If the following is worthy of a place in the Manual, you are at liberty to insert it.

I will preface my subject, by stating, that until within about two years, I was totally ignorant that such a system of Medical Practice, as that denominated "*Thomsonian*," existed. After obtaining the Right, I commenced the study of it, though not without considerable prejudice; but as I advanced, a new light seemed to beam upon me; and I found the errors I had labored under, upon comparison of this system with the old. But to the *case*:

In August last, I left Boston, accompanied by my wife, to spend a few weeks in Maine. She had been in a declining state of health for more than a year past, occasioned from circumstances not necessary to be detailed here. About a week after her arrival in Maine, she complained of pain in the head, and was likewise seized with a violent dysentery. On the first appearance of the foregoing symptoms, I urged her to take medicine at once, which she declined, thinking it might probably wear off by the next day. Not expecting to be absent longer than three weeks, I neglected to provide any medicines; and was therefore entirely destitute, with the exception of No. 2. and Composition; and also, such as I could collect from the fields. The next morning she was much worse; whereupon I commenced with what I had. I gave her a dose of No. 2. and Composition, and then collected some No. 1.—made a Tincture by expressing the juice. In about an hour, I gave a second dose of No. 2. and Composition. An hour afterwards, gave her a table-spoonful of tincture of lobelia, which caused copious vomiting and perspiration. Continued to give a strong tea of No. 2. at intervals of 30 minutes, in doses of half a tea-cupful. Kept up the perspiration for 8 hours, when she fell into a

sleep, which lasted till 12 o'clock, P.M. Broken sleep remainder of the night. Continued to give tea of Composition and No. 2. as before.

"Thomsonians" may be surprised that I have not mentioned *injections*. The fact is, I had no syringe, and could obtain *nothing* at the time as a substitute, without leaving my patient, which I dared not do, knowing that what has been done in like cases, might be done again, especially where I had the *whole* people to oppose. But more anon of this.

Third day symptoms worse. Persevered, however, in my former course, amid the cries of "*You'll kill her!*"—"If she was any relation of mine, you should be taken care of!" &c. &c. Fourth day, succeeded in obtaining a syringe. Prepared an injection of tincture of lobelia, No. 2. and sumac, and administered them every two hours for the day. They relieved the dysentery, and partially relieved the pain in the head. Fifth day, the pain in the head increased almost insupportably. Having taken no nourishment of consequence since taken ill, she thought she could eat something. A small piece of lamb was broiled and seasoned, which she no sooner swallowed than she vomited again. I then took a small piece, of the size of a walnut, and *scorched* it on a fork, seasoned it highly with No. 2. and told her if she could not swallow it, to merely chew it and swallow the moisture or juice. Upon taking it in her mouth, she felt a nausea at the stomach, and instantly vomiting, discharged a — I hardly know what to call it — *snake* or *worm*, upwards of *ten inches* in length, and *three quarters of an inch* in circumference. The color was a light drab, with a stripe running lengthwise on each side of a dark brown color, black eyes, and head similar to that of a turtle. When first discharged, it had all the activity of a snake slightly wounded. It lived about fifteen minutes. The pain in the head immediately ceased, and the appetite increased. She, however, kept declining, and was finally reduced to a mere skeleton. Her feet turned black; like settled blood, difficulty of breathing, pulse 160; surface of body extremely hot. Twelfth day, bowels regular; other symptoms continued. Persevered strictly in the Thomsonian remedies before mentioned. — — —, M. D., called: pronounced it a typhus fever of the worst type. Run the system of practice a little. Seventeenth day; the family pronounced her in a dying state; more so, from the black color on her feet, extending in stripes upwards. The neighbors, as usual in country places, called in to see her die. Threats and cries of cruelty against me for pour-

ing down "fire," and she "burning up with a fever." To stop their *ravings*, let them send for the M. D. before-mentioned, resolving, however, to follow my own plan. He arrived in about an hour. Patient asleep. After examining her, and finding her "burning up," he advised me to give her "SPIRITS OF NITRE!" I told him if she died, I "took the responsibility;" and that I was determined she should not die with a belly full of *poison*. "Well," says he, "look out or you'll lose her." After a little more conversation, he left. Stopping at the next house, he called her disease "Lung fever," saying she would not live till sunrise. She *did* live, though, and the next day I carried her through a course of medicine, as near as possible, from which time she revived very fast. In a few days she walked three miles; and in two days after, took passage by water for Boston, where we arrived safe. She now enjoys better health than she has for the last ten years, with every prospect of its continuing.

I have extended this communication to a much greater length, than I at first intended, and yet the half is not told. I have the *worm* before spoken of preserved in spirits, and shall leave it with the Publisher of the Manual, for the inspection of the curious, as soon as I receive it from Maine; having left it behind in the hurry of embarking. To the correctness of the foregoing statements, I can obtain a hundred witnesses.

With gratitude to the venerable Founder of the system, for myself and wife both owe our lives to it, I subscribe myself,

Yours, truly, GEO. A. CHAPMAN.

The above case is certainly a very singular one. The perseverance of our correspondent, in the use of his remedies, against the virulent opposition with which he had to contend, is worthy of especial commendation. Those only who have been placed in such a situation, can realise its unpleasantness. To have a wife, in imminent danger, with all the care and anxiety which one must necessarily feel on her account; to be using our best efforts to render the necessary aid; and to have those from whom we have a right to expect assistance, opposing and condemning; are a combination of circumstances which require the utmost firmness and perseverance to contend against. The result has been a happy one; and we cannot too strongly recommend the example to others. Perseverance in the use of Dr. Thomson's medicines will, we are satisfied, cure all curable cases. We speak understandingly on this subject, having been placed in a similar situation. But more on this subject, in No. 3. of the article on "Midwifery," which will appear in the next number of the Manual.—J. C.

[Original.]

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

I will here give a few cases of cures, performed under your System of Medicine; if you think them worthy a place in your Manual, you are at liberty to insert the same.

I will first state my own case. For four years I suffered under dyspepsia and consumption, and through the warm weather attended with intense pain in my limbs, and a great propensity to sleep, (so much so that I could frequently fall asleep while walking in the street); when seated, it was with difficulty that I could keep my eyes open. For four months previous to trying your system of medicine, the most simple food would not remain on my stomach; then life had become a burthen.

My sleepiness then left me, and I experienced great difficulty in breathing, loss of appetite, and no rest for my weary body and aching bones, nor sleep to my eyelids. What must be done? I had followed the prescriptions of the M. D.'s, which sunk me deeper in the mire. Among my many friends and acquaintance, there was not a Thomsonian to advise me; and I knew nothing about the system myself. But fortunately, a man called in, who was a Thomsonian; he saw that I was very sick, and said that I was a fit subject for a steam doctor. Steam doctor? what do you mean by steam doctor? said I. He then explained the matter. As there did not appear to be any other chance for me, I asked my friend if he would accompany me to a steam doctor. "With pleasure," was the answer. We started for Dr. Benjamin Thompson's Infirmary. Not knowing what a course of medicine was, and steaming, I went 'like a lamb to the slaughter;' in due process of time, I entered the steam box, and it was with difficulty that I could get my breath, when the thermometer stood at 80; but after taking the warm medicine, I felt very comfortable, except occasionally from cold chills, till the mercury rose to 120; then came the cold shower-bath. Thus I went on, step by step, till I got through what they called a course of medicine. This so increased my appetite, that I was able to take considerable more food, than I had done for some time; the food sat well, no difficulty in breathing as formerly, slept well all night; arose the next morning a new man, but not entirely well. The next week took another course of medicine, which made me very comfortable; but it being late in the fall, I omitted the courses till the next spring; then repeated them till perfectly cured. Altogether, I took about twelve courses, which I believe saved me from the grasp of death. The short time that I shall yet continue on this earth, shall be spent by the sick bed, and in the cause which has done so much for suffering humanity.

I purchased a Family Right, thinking strongly of entering into the practice so far as my own family extended, if no farther; for I had made up my mind that no M. D. should have anything

more to do in my family, and had said so to my opposers. "But what will you do, when your wife wants help?" "Send for a Thomsonian, to be sure; one that will do some good, and not kill, under pretence of curing, as the M. D.'s do." "You would not trust your wife in a steam doctor's hands, would you?" "I would not trust her in any other hands, no more than I would a hungry dog with my supper." But they stole a march on me, when I was absent, and called in an M. D. to my wife, who had been in a poor state of health four or five years, who had commenced taking the Thomsonian medicine, had taken one course a short time previous to calling in the M. D., but by not taking another course soon enough, she faltered, and through the influence of her friends, who were unfriendly to the Thomsonian system, she sent for the M. D. When I returned home, to my sorrow and astonishment, I found the medical gentleman there! You may judge what my feelings were! If I had been pierced with a dagger, I should not have felt worse. I told my wife that I was astonished at this, and that I had rather have my right hand cut off, than she should take the medicines he had prescribed; for this reason: she had taken the same medicine from other doctors, which made her worse. But still thinking all was right, she persisted in taking it, in opposition to all I could do. The prescription was four pills on going to bed, which dose distressed her all night. She had got the dose, however, and now the thing was to get rid of it. The doctor came the next morning, to tell her how to get rid of it. One ounce of oil,—rather a large dose; but he found that he had loaded her rather heavily, and it would take more to fire it off! "If this does not operate this forenoon, you must take another ounce!" said the physician. It did not operate, so she took the second dose. Soon after this, the gun discharged, but *up* instead of *down*!

By this time, she was reduced so low, that she could not be raised from the pillow without fainting; and looked more like a dead person than a living one. She requested me to send for a doctor. I did not send, but went myself, in order to let him know how his patient was, and that he need not trouble himself any more. But he had gone away. I left word for him to call, and made quick steps to Dr. Benj. Thompson's infirmary, to get him to attend my wife, which he did. He told me to go home and drive the doctor out of the house, and he would soon be there. I went home, and soon after the M. D. came in. I told him that my wife should take no more of his medicine, for if she does she will die; and that I had been for Dr. Thompson. In a rage he said that Dr. T. did not know any more about doctoring than he did about shoeing a horse. I replied, Perhaps, sir, he has as good knowledge as yourself, and he may as well kill her as you; for she must die under your hands, and she cannot more than die under his." He told the nurse to give her an injection; but I put a veto on that. The

doctor at length got angry, and I was much pleased to see him go home, without accomplishing his object.

Dr. Thompson soon arrived, and gave her a course of medicine, and in one hour and a half she sat up in the bed, drank a cup of tea, and ate a piece of fish and cracker toast; the next day sat up; then followed up the courses of medicine till entirely well. She is now in good health, with two patent boys, one three years old, the other ten months.

I will observe, in conclusion, that I am in the flourishing town of Lynn, in full practice. I have been in Lynn two years last July, in which time I have been in constant practice, and have treated one thousand patients with good success. The Botanic bids fair to supercede the mineral practice, in a few years.

Yours, with respect,

JOHN R. PATTEN, T. B. P.

Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson.

Dr. Patten will excuse us, we presume, for the alterations we have made in his manuscript. We have taken this liberty, because we supposed he wrote in haste, and had not time for revision; our alterations, however, do not extend to the subject-matter of his communication, but only to the phraseology. Dr. P. is a thorough-going Thomsonian, and we are informed has a first-rate Infirmary. We hope some time to have an opportunity of visiting it. Shall we not hear from him again soon?—J. C.

[Original.]

LETTER FROM DR. DOW.

CONCLUDED.

A Miss Wood, of your good city of steady habits, came to me in a decline—has taken eight courses—and has so far recovered, that her health is now very good, and she has gone home to Boston.

Several others from Boston, have also been to me, and are cured; some from Lowell, Haverhill, Portsmouth, and Exeter; two from Townsend, 20 miles south west of Lowell; all of whom I have cured, or greatly benefitted.

A Miss Fletcher, of hip complaint, cured—she took a number of courses, and bathed with the ointment and No. 6.

Capt. Hutchins, of this town, for the last 7 years has been troubled with the West India disorder, loss of appetite, and digestive powers. Cured in one week, so that the disorder has never yet returned—appetite good—gained 29 lbs. in three weeks!

Mr. Stiles, of Boxford, case, palpitation of heart—cured by three courses, and took one pound of composition and bitters to carry home.

Mr. Hoyt, of Amesbury Mills, had a child three years of age, who took a cold; he called an M. D., who attended it a long time, the child

still continuing to grow worse; when it got to be a "living skeleton." He brought it to me; I kept it four days, then gave the parents directions how to continue the treatment; in two weeks, the mother said she had to work as hard to keep it out of the cupboard, as she did a few weeks before, when sick, to take care of it.

Mr. Hood, of Amesbury, bad case, catarrh in the head of long standing; treatment, three courses, within a few weeks, and a free use of the Thomsonian snuff. Now about well.

Mr. Mash, Miss Eaton, Miss Davis, and Mrs. Johnson, cured of the Tic Dolooureux in the face.

I have had quite a number of cases this summer and fall, of children of lung fevers, croup and bad colds, have lost not one. I had one case of a child, who had swallowed a plumb-stone, unknown to any one, which probably had been in its stomach several days before it was taken sick. The mother gave ipecac; it grew worse; the next day gave a dose of oil, but still the child grew worse; I was sent for, and gave an emetic, supposing it to be a lung fever, as it had all the symptoms of it. This eased it for a few hours, and it then again grew worse. I repeated my course, but to no purpose. I was with it most of the time for twelve hours, and during that time used every means to afford relief in my power, but to no purpose; the child died. On a *post mortem* examination, I found the stone two or three inches below the stomach, in the intestines. This is the only patient that I have lost in all my practice, where I was the first and only one to administer medicine, and I was so horribly worked up about it, because my medicine worked so well every time, that I could not sleep that night; but the system lost no credit, in this case, though a death puff was heard from a few interested persons.

Do not these cures corroborate those performed by the patriarch Dr. Samuel Thomson, at Eastham, where he cured thirty out of thirty-two who were attacked with the "Spotted fever," and the poison doctors, or, if you please, M. D.'s, lost twenty-two out of twenty-four that they attended?

And does it not run parallel with his success at Jericho, Vermont, from which place Dr. Thomson was sent for, one hundred and thirty miles, and on his arrival found many had refused to take medicine from the M. D.'s, as all who had, had died, and thirty were, in a few hours, under his treatment; all of whom, except one, recovered; and that one was dying when the Dr. first saw him! And, sir, does it not confirm his account of his success at Walpole, and in other places, in "Yellow fever," and in diseases of every type? Or will not the united testimony of every one who has any understanding of the subject, satisfy the public that the Botanic System is ten thousand times safer than the Mineral System?

Yesterday I was sent for to go to Old Hampton, ten miles, to attend a man whom two M. D.'s had attended six months. He only had a

bad cold at the commencement; they kept promising a cure, until the man and his friends became impatient, and were anxious for other aid, and the physicians were very willing to get their patient under my charge, for they must have known that he could not live. On seeing the patient, I refused to do anything for him, as I felt confident that he could not live, and told him so, which surprised the family, as they had been induced to believe that he would probably find a safe retreat in the Botanic treatment. But I did not, and would not meddle with him. In a few hours after I arrived home, his grandfather came again after me, but I declined going with him; he urged me very hard to try my medicines on him, and said, if I would cure him, he would give me \$500. But I told him if he offered me \$5000, I would not abuse the Thomsonian system so much, for I knew it was impossible to save him.

This is the way to teach the people that they must not wait for the M. D. to say, "I cannot cure you, you may now go to a Botanic or Steam doctor, perhaps he can."*

One of the regular faculty, with an oath too disgusting to appear in print, or even to be repeated, said he would never give up another patient while breath was in his body, for me to cure.

You will observe, I have not mentioned a single case of Rheumatism; because it is universally admitted, that Steam doctors can cure it, and it is as readily admitted that the M. D.'s cannot.

I have certificates from many of those persons whom I have mentioned; but they would fill too much space.

AARON DOW.

* We are inclined to the opinion, that this course is injudicious. Notwithstanding the fact, that Thomsonian practitioners have sometimes undertaken cases, which have been given over by the faculty, where there has been no hope, (or scarcely a possibility), of cure; and notwithstanding, when the means used in such cases have failed, the report has gained currency that the patient was killed by a Thomsonian doctor; yet would we recommend practitioners, where a patient and his friends manifest so great solicitude, to do all in their power; though in self-defence they should first obtain certificates from the physician and friends, that they could do nothing more, and that death was inevitable, unless relief could be obtained from the Botanic remedies. This course might, perhaps, be the means of saving the lives of some, however hopeless their case at first appeared. And where it should fail, the surviving friends would, in many instances at least, feel better satisfied; and let maligners invent what slanders they will, the practitioner will have the

satisfaction of knowing that he has left no means untried to relieve a fellow being from the grasp of death, and to restore him to health and to his friends.—J. C.

THE MANUAL.



“So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength.”—Milton.

BOSTON, JANUARY 15, 1836.

A CARD.

Believing Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON'S System of Medical Practice superior to all others, and well calculated to promote the health and happiness of the human family; and being so circumstanced, at the present time, that I shall have leisure and opportunity to assist—so far as my abilities render me competent—the Conductors of the “Manual” in their editorial labors; I shall do this most cheerfully. And I would embrace this opportunity to recommend the Manual to all my personal friends, and the public generally, as being a publication at once cheap and of inestimable value. The terms are so moderate, that it would seem scarcely possible that its patrons should not get well rewarded, in useful knowledge, for so small a sum.

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN.

Boston, Dec. 20, 1836.

SUPREME COURT. SAMUEL THOMSON vs. HOSEA WINCHESTER. This was an action brought by Dr. Samuel Thomson against Hosea Winchester, as trustee of the United Society of Shakers at Harvard, for a trespass on his rights; damage laid at ten thousand dollars. Judge Morton presided. Mr. Peabody and the Hon. Peleg Sprague were Counsel for the Plaintiff, and Mr. Parsons and Mr. Stearns were Counsel for the Defendant. The witnesses for the plaintiff, were eight at least in number; all perfectly agreed in their testimony so far as they all had knowledge of the same facts, by which it was clearly established that Mr. Kneeland contracted with Winchester for about five tons of medicine, of different kinds, being all said Winchester had, and that Winchester warranted it all pure Thomsonian or Thomson's medi-

cine. (The witnesses supposed both terms to have the same meaning, and were used, and intended to be used, in the same sense.) The medicine was brought into the city at different times, and stored, until he (Winchester) notified Mr. Kneeland that it was all in, and ready for examination and delivery. One witness testified that he examined it with Mr. K., and compared it with the samples and bills, and that he found the articles, by the ton, very inferior to the samples; not being *pure*, but *poor* Thomsonian medicine; and of course not answering the description of the contract. And what added more to his surprise, was, when he examined the bills, he found some of the most valuable articles wanting, and when he called on Mr. Winchester for an explanation, he said that he had had an opportunity to sell them, and had sold them for more than Mr. K. had agreed to give him, and that he had cleared for himself on the sale, out of what he had previously sold to Mr. K. about \$250. On discovering this violation of honor and contract, in selling off the best articles, and leaving him the balance only, Mr. Kneeland refused to take any that were left, and therefore the contract fell through. It was also proved, that about the same hour of his contracting with Mr. Kneeland, this honest Shaker had hardly got out of sight of Mr. K.'s office, when he fell in company with Dr. Watkins and Dr. Wright, and soon after being introduced to them, he opened again the conversation on the subject of Thomsonian medicine, and said that he had supplied many people with it, and among others he had supplied some of Dr. Thomson's Agents, and offered to sell some to them. They contracted with him for prepared and compounded medicine of the best and purest kind, and he agreed to deliver it as soon as he could get it prepared. In about a week it arrived according to contract, except instead of its being *pure Thomsonian medicine*, as it was to have been, it was *poor Shaker medicine*; yet the Shaker sold it as *pure Thomsonian* (or *Thomson's*) *medicine*. The amount that Dr. Watkins bought was 5 gallons of spurious drops, and other compounds equally spurious and counterfeit, being mixed with wood, dirt, gravel, and other spurious substances, dangerous to the life and health of the people; the greater part of which is now on hand, and will be exhibited for the inspection of any one who may wish to examine it, and thereby ascertain the

purity of the Thomsonian medicine prepared by the United Society of Shakers at Harvard. For this bill, amounting to about \$40, was receipted as "Agent and Trustee," and signed "Hosea Winchester." This fraud, one would think, ought to be sufficient to *shake* the faith in the honesty of the *Shaker* society, unless it be in their selling *poor* Thomsonian medicine.

Thus ended the evidence on the part of the plaintiff.

The Defendant's witnesses went to prove that he had sold Thomsonian medicine to the apothecaries, and that they had ever found it good. [If they could only sell it again, and make a profit on it, it was good enough for them as a matter of course. Whether it killed or cured is quite another thing.] Mr. Henshaw stated that some of Thomson's agents were so ignorant that they did not know the articles. He was asked how he knew them to be Thomson's agents. He said, they professed to be agents. He also stated that some qualities of myrrh was worth 75 cents a pound, some 10 cents, and others nothing. These few remarks were all that were at all relative to the case.

Mr. Parsons, the Defendant's Counsel, took the stand, and began to pour out all his invective wrath upon the plaintiff's witnesses, both on and off the stand, and represented them as belonging to one pandemonium or a crew of devils, accusing them of a conspiracy, of lying and of perjury, without bringing any proof to invalidate any one point of their testimony, much less against their veracity. The following, which is copied from a Boston paper, is fully to this point.

"In an action just finished before Judge Morton at the Supreme Court now sitting in this city, brought by Doct. Samuel Thomson the Botanic Physician against Hosea Winchester for a trespass on his rights, the Defendant's Counsel a highly eminent Attorney was permitted by the Court to lavish and exhaust his spleen, passion and prejudice on the whole list of the Plaintiff's witnesses 14 or 15 in number, in the most wanton, bitter, and denunciatory manner we ever before heard from any Lawyer whatsoever. Now we admit that when a witness's evidence is inconsistent with itself, or when his character or credibility is legally impeached in a Court of Justice, an Attorney may have a right in the discharge of the duty he owes his client, both to censure and destroy the effect of the same, if he can. But when as in the present case, the witnesses were all creditable, respectable, and unimpeached persons—when their evidence was perfect in itself and no at-

tempt was made by the Defendant or his Counsel (Parsons) to prove the same false, no Lawyer has either a moral or a legal right to assail their reputation in any way whatever. The Hon. Peleg Sprague, however, in closing the cause for the Plaintiff, in one of the most able, eloquent, and powerful arguments we ever before heard, set the matter right, and severely animadverted on the course taken by the Defendant's Counsel, which was disliked even by the jury, one of whom told Dr. Thomson after the trial, that it met with no favor from their tribunal."

The deadly venom of Parsons seemed to be all levelled against Dr. Thomson himself, and on his account he seemed to spite every one who spoke a word in his favor. It is said that he gave out word previous to the trial that he took up against Thomson in retaliation for his libelling his father, and the day before the trial he told a man that he was going to argue the case for the sake of giving Thomson some heavy raps, which, to be sure, he did; but the raps have rebounded upon his own head, and even into his face, sufficient to commit suicide on his character, if not on his *Parson*. In opening his battery on Thomson, he brought forward the 6th volume of the Massachusetts Reports, which contained the report of his father, Judge Parsons, in the trial of Dr. Thomson in 1809, on an indictment for *murder*. It was objected to its being read; but the Court gave him liberty to make his observations on it. He then went on to show the ignorance of Thomson, and the awful and frightful names of his medicines; such as bull-dog, ram-cat, belly-me-grizzle, &c. and gave as false a coloring as his malice could invent. And further, to display his ignorance as well as his malice, he declared that Thomson used the hemlock, the same as Socrates was made to drink to produce his death. Was he so ignorant as not to know the difference between a plant of four feet high and a tree 150 feet high and 4 feet in diameter? He continued his abuse by stating that Thomson said the man [Lovell] had the hipes like the devil; and followed his false declaration by stating that T. gave his poison lobelia and forced it down the man's throat until he died. This statement is proved false by the certificates of William Raymond and Elijah Williams, who were present at the time, and who declared that Drs. How and Fisher had the care of the man from sunrise in the morning, until 10 o'clock at night, when he died: and that Thomson never

saw him after the doctors took charge of him. This case lay without censure one whole year, and Dr. Thomson's practice was crowned with success, having cured many whom Dr. French, the prosecutor, had given over to die, which probably was what excited his envy, and led him to get Thomson indicted for murder. But Thomson was acquitted, without having even a chance of making any defence; but was acquitted on the very evidence that was brought to convict him.

Parsons continued his abuse on Dr. Thomson without being even checked by the Court; and he tried all his powers of ridicule, sarcasm and blackguardism, and said that Thomson and his witnesses ought to be scouted out of Court, and to be treated even as outlaws, and he hoped that a Boston jury would give them no countenance in their verdict. He said that no justice belonged to him, and that he richly merited the halter and the gallows! Thus, after venting all his spleen, venom and paroxysms of hydrophobia, and after he had given all the heavy thumps he had before threatened, sufficient as he undoubtedly thought to retaliate on Dr. Thomson for all the libels he had given in his Narrative against his father, with trembling limbs and paleness in his countenance, he took his seat.

Mr. Sprague then arose and addressed the Court and Jury in the most eloquent manner for the space of about four hours and a half, retaliating on his adverse Counsel good for evil, truth for falsehood, smooth words for harsh abuses, candor for ridicule, until the countenance of the whole people was changed from snickering and whispering into solemn reflection. He then summed up the evidence in the case, and clearly made out one of the most outrageous invasions of the rights and discoveries of Dr. Thomson, as perhaps was ever practised on any man living; not only in selling spurious medicine in large quantities as Dr. Thomson's genuine medicine; but in his name, amounting to four or five tons at a time. When he sold it to Thomson's agents, it was *pure Thomsonian medicine*, meaning to have them sell it as medicine prepared by Dr. *Samuel Thomson*; when he sells it to the apothecaries, it is Thomsonian medicine prepared by the United Society of Shakers at Harvard. When sent to New Orleans or Georgia it is Thomsonian medicine received and sold as medicine prepared by Dr. Samuel Thomson. This spurious and counterfeit stuff is sold on Thomson's credit, that is, on the credit of his name, which deprives him of the sale, and the people from having the benefit of good medicine. If he can succeed in this outrageous violation of every principle of honor and fair dealing, he will eventually bring Thomson and his system into disrepute; and thus ruin both. He next argued what claim he has, or ever had, to all, or even any, of the profits resulting from Dr. Thomson's discoveries. For this fact is not denied by the opposite counsel. In about 1817, he pretends that he bought a family right. This is doubted; and he has

not even pretended to make it out by showing his certificate; for a certificate is given, in addition to the book, to every purchaser of a family right. This right goes no farther than to prepare and use for himself and family said medicine; but no right to sell. Now, for argument's sake, we will suppose he has purchased a family right as all other Thomsonians have, and here the contract ends. It extended not an inch beyond himself and this honest Shaker's conscience. It appears that, finding it to be effectual in curing disease, it was worthy of a Shaker's speculation. He then tries the elastic power of his family right; so extends it to all the Shaker family at Harvard. Then, finding the elastic power was not all evaporated out of his conscience, he extends the sale of his medicine to others beside the Shaker family, that is, to his neighbors, and he supplies them with pure Thomsonian medicine. He now finds that Thomson's name accelerates the sales, as Thomson gains credit, and the use of this name helps his sales four-fold. Hence the demand becomes great, and he now makes great sales of Shaker medicine, selling it as Thomsonian medicine, whenever and wherever the name of Thomson will facilitate the sale, he begins to prepare medicine by the ton, and to supply all parts of the United States, if not other countries. Lo, what a fire a little spark kindleth! One pretended family right was the little spark thrown into the Shakers' magazine of speculation, which has exploded, and the shock was felt by all true Thomsonians, and will be likely to destroy the Shaker speculation in Thomsonian medicine. The word Thomsonian, ever since the Shaker's date, 1817, which was the time Thomson was first known in Boston, and on Cape Cod, (for there was where Winchester first heard of Thomson) has been applied exclusively to the system of medical practice as taught by Samuel Thomson. In 1816, Thomson was sent for to Cape Cod, to attend on the people who were sick with what was called the cold plague, as mentioned in his Narrative, where he first gained his reputation in this state; and here was where Winchester first heard of him. The extraordinary cures there performed, saving 33 out of 34 in about ten days, when about 40 had died previous to his going, and 11 out of 12 died with the cold plague doctors, during the time he was there, these extraordinary cures, I say, stamped the practice with Thomson's name, and of course the name *Thomsonian* medicines. One Joseph Mayo, who kept an account of this mortality, is the man of whom Winchester first obtained a knowledge of Thomson and his practice. No wonder, then, that he christened his counterfeit medicine *Thomsonian*. The child is 20 years old last April. He has followed him ever since, with his hundred in a family, and to build himself up on the ruin of the founder of the system. But the foregoing cures, and many others since, has raised his reputation in the healing art throughout the United States, as well as in Canada and New

Brunswick, insomuch that the name of Thomson is as familiar to the people every where as that of the President. What would Shaker medicine be good for in Georgia or New-Orleans were it not recommended by the name of Thomson? Yet Winchester boasts of having sold it for this 20 years past. Look at the birth of the child 20 years ago last April. This is the benefactor alluded to by Mr. Parsons, with all his epithets of ignorant, wise, foolish, skilful, allowing the cures we claim, and more too, for he allowed that he could raise the dead; that he is so clever, so ugly, that he ought to be scouted out of court, and made a subject of the halter and the gallows!

Now, reader, look at that being, Theophilus Parsons, and judge if he has not committed suicide upon his character, if not on his *Parson*! If so, who will ever employ him again as Counsel? But, on the other hand, the Honorable Peleg Sprague, Counsel for the Plaintiff, has done himself immortal honor in his fair treatment of the witnesses on both sides of the question, and gave honor to whom honor was due; and we have no doubt but that every one within the sound of his voice was fully convinced that he had justly appreciated the true merits of the case, and we hope he will receive the full reward he has merited. If this was the first case that he has argued before the Supreme Court in this state, we trust it will not be the last.

The cause was given to the Jury by Judge Morton, with a doubt whether the word *Thomsonian* meant *Samuel Thomson* or not; and whether special damages should not have been proved. The case therefore was involved in so much doubt and uncertainty, that the Jury returned a verdict for the Defendant. The Counsel for the Plaintiff took exceptions to this verdict on points of law; the Counsel doubting the correctness of the law as given by the Judge to the Jury. The case was carried up therefore to be argued before the full Bench on points of law, when, it is very probable, the verdict will be set aside, and a new trial granted. Hence, for the present, it may be said that Winchester got his case, and lost his and the Shaker's credit. While Thomson, though he lost his case, gained his credit.

HOSEA WINCHESTER AGAIN:

This Shaker not being satisfied with monopolizing all the profits of Dr. Thomson's discoveries to himself and his brother Shakers, left the Society, for causes best known to the Society and himself, came to Boston, bought out a man who had no authority from Dr. Thomson, though he kept up a sign, which is still continued, ["Thomsonian Infirmary,"] at the corner of Charles and Mount Vernon streets, where he has assumed under his family right the right of receiving patients, to administer

Thomsonian courses of medicine to them, and to sell them medicine to carry home. Hence all who call on him for aid he considers as belonging to his family, under the great and extensive virtues of his family right! As well might a landlord claim all who should call on him for a lodging, a dinner, or a glass of rum; as his family!

This is only another gull trap to catch the uninformed, or to deceive the people. They go there expecting to find; if not Dr. Thomson himself, at least his medicine and his system of practice. But, alas! they find neither. But any thing answers for a plea to rob Thomson of his hard earned discoveries. The money is wanting and we must have it, honestly or dishonestly, no matter, if we can only get it. Any thing for a plea, as people who drink rum; the doctor drinks, because he is exposed to the cold; the blacksmith drinks, because he is exposed to the heat; so rum will blow either hot or cold, according to the appetite of all who want it. So, also, of all who trespass on the rights of Thomson; all have their plea for making and selling his medicine. Some say that he monopolizes what does not belong to him; others that his medicine is too high; but nothing is said about monopolizing when they make spurious and counterfeit stuff, and palm it off upon the public under his name, as was the case in the late suit. Where tons of these articles are palmed off upon the community, there is no complaint about a monopoly. Thomson suffers the loss of what would have been a fair profit on the articles, if made good and genuine as he makes them; and others who purchase of them suffer the loss of health, and sometimes of life, (or at least a cure is prevented) and wholly owing, perhaps, to such spurious medicine, or improper application, or both; while all the blame ultimately comes upon Thomson and his system. Is there no remedy for such abuses? Let us appeal to the public for a remedy. How can a remedy be effected? In the first place, let the *pass word* be altered. Let it be published in all the periodicals friendly to the *Thomsonian*, or to Dr. *Samuel Thomson's* system, that the word should be, when you are solicited to purchase *Thomsonian medicine*; Is this medicine prepared by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON; or by his *legally authorised agents*? And if you find that it had not been so prepared, despise both the offer and the offerer of such spurious stuff for *Thomsonian*

medicine. And if they deceive you on this point, they are liable for an action of damages, and all the cost of Court.

Had this plan been adopted in the first place, it would have saved the trouble of the late suit. But whoever dreamed that the word *Thomsonian*, in relation to medicine, could have any other allusion than to *Samuel Thomson*? This title has been applied to him ever since he left his farm, and applied himself constantly to practice, and which became general in 1806. In that year, he spent three months in the city of New York, proving the efficacy of the medicine in the yellow fever, so called; alias mercury, opium, and bleeding, as exemplified in the practice of Dr. Rush in Philadelphia, in 1798, when the lancet was so lavishly used to the destruction of many lives. These remedies of the doctors may, and often do, originate all the diseases that flesh and blood is heir to. The prevailing fever in the Dr.'s neighborhood, in 1805, was called as near the yellow fever, as the climate would admit of. Here Dr. Thomson began the system of rigid temperance, and set the example, which has been so laudably followed since. So much for the word *Thomsonian*; and so much also for *temperance*.

The second objection is, *the medicine is too dear*. This objection is explained and removed as easily as the other—monopoly. We, complainants, want the money. There is no complaint of monopoly, when the complainant prepares and sells Dr. Thomson's medicine by the ton, or by the twenty tons. Nothing is said about their monopolizing his property and business then. We want your money. You must not complain. It is our right. Your system we will support; but we will not support you. We will call your system the Botanic and Reformed System, and thus rob you of the credit of being its founder, as well as rob you of your property. This seems to be the true state of the case; and Dr. Thomson has no more right to complain than a farmer has who has raised a good flock of sheep, and the thief comes and complains of the farmer as being a monopolist, under a pretence that the thief has as good a right to the productions of the earth as the farmer. So he takes one of the best sheep upon his back, and goes his way. He meets his companion, who says to him, Whose sheep is that? Mine, you fool! why do you ask? Because I know it to belong to the farmer; why did you take it? I am justified in this way. The farmer is a monopolist. He asks too much for his sheep. I can sell cheaper than he does. It is no longer his sheep when I have got it fairly on my back. In this way I am justified: I will support the sheep; but I will not support the man who raised the sheep! Now, we would ask, is it not as much stealing for men to take Dr. Thomson's discoveries, and sell for themselves, and wholly for their own profit, as it is for the man who takes the sheep and sells it for his own exclusive benefit? In this case any thing answers for a plea. I want the money. I will pay the

doctor in slander and abuse, and destroy his influence, as was tried by several persons in the late trial.

We shall now make a few remarks on cheap medicine, by which we shall show it to be *cheat* medicine; and we believe it has cheated many a one out of his life, caused as follows. Cheap medicine will make cheat cures. Mr. Henshaw, a witness in the late trial, was asked the quality and different prices of gum myrrh. He said some qualities were 75 cents a pound, others ten cents, and others were worth nothing. Now we will tell you how to make cheap or cheat drops. Take one pound of the ten cent gum myrrh, one gallon of high proof new rum, worth forty cents, one ounce of cayenne, of the cheap kind, and colored (or rather poisoned) with red arsenic, worth six cents: the whole cost for the gallon is 56 cents. The above will make five bottles of vegetable elixir, which E. Smith sells at five dollars; that is, one dollar a bottle. This is cheat drops. Good drops will cost about four dollars a gallon, eight times the cost of the vegetable elixir, and yet because it is sold 50 per cent. higher; that is, \$1,50 a bottle, it is thought to be too dear. Why, it is better worth \$4 a bottle, than the other is 50 cents. Vegetable powders also may be made of bad articles; such as rotten bayberry, spurious ginger, spice instead of cloves, and the common red cayenne, as in the drops. Infirmarys, also, may practise great imposition, in first demanding four dollars in advance from each patient; then carry them through a course every day and every other day, in cold winter weather, to the injury and expense of the patient. One woman was carried through nineteen courses of medicine before she could be made to sweat. This scheme has been made quite a speculation of by J. Thompson, Badger, Brown, Magoon and Winchester. Beware, therefore, of all Thomsonian Infirmarys; and whenever you see such a sign, before you apply for any assistance whatever, inquire if it be an Infirmary authorized and patronized by Dr. Samuel Thomson; and whether their medicine also has been prepared by him or his general agents. Do not suffer yourself to be imposed upon and taken in by the bare appearance of the name on the sign, or labelled on the medicine. But be satisfied that it is not only genuine as to name; but also genuine as to quality. Many have been taken in at one of these places, like the man from Charlestown, supposing it to be Dr. Thomson's head quarters. They have been told that Dr. Thomson boarded there when in the city; but that he was gone into the country, or to some foreign port.

The Doctor has had his letters broken open, containing orders for medicine, without his authority, merely because they happened to be presented at one of these counterfeit places. Beware, therefore, of all these places; particularly of 554 Washington street, near the railroad, and also the other gull trap, corner of Charles and Mount Vernon streets. Neither

house has any authority whatever from Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON.

The general depot of Dr. Samuel Thomson's medicines in Massachusetts, is at No. 33, Washington Street, Boston. Also, Godfrey Meyer & Co., Baltimore, Md., and Horatio Wood, Columbus, Ohio, are General Agents, who also have sub-agents.

A CASE OF MIDWIFERY:

No. 2.

READER, — Were you ever called to the sick bed of some dear friend or near relation? — to that of a father, mother, sister, or brother? If so, then do you know somewhat of the misery and grief which human nature is heir to! But, were you ever called to attend upon, during severe sickness, and close the eyes in the very morning of life, of one with whom you have passed many years of unalloyed happiness? — of one, to whom you had united your destinies for life — and to whom the pure, virgin affections of your heart were early and wholly devoted — and by whom they were fully requited and reciprocated? — of one, upon whose existence hung your entire hopes of future happiness? — of one, who was the calmer of your sorrows, the participator of your joys; nay more, the parent of your children? Hast ever watched with anxious solicitude the countenances of those, who had just left the sick chamber of a being so related to you, and looked the inquiries you dared not utter? If so, then have you known the full luxury of grief! If not, then learn, as you value that which you hold most dear, from the experience of others, to avoid these dire and heart-rending calamities.

Can aught be added to the circumstances attempted to be described above, — and which are true to life, — that would enhance one's misery? Yes, gentle reader, this *has been* the case, and still *can be*! — and it is mainly on this account, that I would wish to say a few words to you. Do you ask, What is this great evil? I reply, To think and feel that death was premature — that injudicious treatment had hastened, if not caused, that calamitous event — or, at least, that the best means had not been found, or, if found, were not essayed, which would have been most likely to have removed the cause of sickness, to prevent the rapid approaches of death, and restore to health the precious being for whom you necessarily felt so great anxiety, and whose untimely end would embitter every subsequent moment of life.

In the last number of the Manual, in the concluding paragraph of an article with the same caption that stands at the head of this, I promised to make some further remarks upon the subject there treated upon: that pledge I now hasten to redeem.

In the previous number, reference was made to the midwife who attended, in such connection as, perhaps, to convey the idea that she and her mother practised upon the *Thomsonian* system. This was not intended. On the contrary, it should be explicitly stated, that they were both, as is understood, educated according to the "regular" practice; and this practice, it is presumed, they pursue; with what success, myself, and some (if not many) others, have most sorrowful experience.

In this connection it seems proper to state, that the physician who was subsequently in attendance, on being informed what had been done, pronounced it right and proper. Yet it is very much doubted whether the subject was fully and fairly broached to him. Perhaps these doubts may be ill-founded; but it is not reasonable to presume this, because of his extensive practice and experience, and because such treatment seems contrary to reason and common sense. And further, because the writer of this communicated the facts *as they were*, to a gentleman, — presumed to be a medical student, — who accompanied the physician on one or two occasions, and who considered the treatment as exceedingly reprehensible. But still, the pupil and his master *may*, possibly, differ in opinion upon this point! — though it is not intended to imply that this is the fact.

It was stated, in the former number, that the physician attended about one fortnight, and that what he did was observed very particularly. It seems proper now to state, what that treatment was — why it was not approved of — and, finally, why it is believed that a different mode of practice would have produced more favorable results. It is readily conceded, that the elucidation of these points is a difficult task — it is also an important one. But it is deemed important to make the trial, partly and mainly for the benefit of the public, and partly because the writer was cautioned, by the physician, against using the *Thomsonian medicine*.

The two first propositions are so closely allied to each other, that they will be considered together. They are, What was the practice of

the physician—and, Why was it not approved of? The practice was, to give medicine “to operate upon the system,” instead of upon the disease—i. e. medicine calculated to cool the blood, and to allay the fever, instead of such as would have aided the fever to throw off the disease, which was the cause of it. The medicine here referred to was, it is believed, mercury in some form, but as the recipe was not preserved, this is not absolutely certain. Nitre was also administered, which is one of the most deadly poisons, and the most difficult to eradicate from the system. Blisters were also applied, and it is believed that these were dressed with mercurial ointment. A liquor was also administered, to soothe the system, which was composed principally of ether; an article that should never be given to, or taken by any person. This soothing anodyne seemed to increase the tumult it was intended to allay. Leeches were not omitted. Injections composed of Epsom salts, table salt, and senna, were also administered; these articles are altogether too harsh and cooling ever to be used, either for injections or for opening medicine. Castor oil was given. A preparation of senna, designation not recollected. Calomel and jalap, it is believed, was given, or rather attempted to be given. I say attempted, for so repugnant did the powder seem to the patient, that, although she repeatedly exerted herself to the utmost to swallow it, she could not, and the physician was compelled to desist. Never, never, shall I forget that awful struggle! And I stood by, and permitted it; still let them go on; but blame me not, fellow men; my feelings are sufficiently acute, without any addition! Hear me through, and be warned!

Mustard seed poultices were also applied to the feet, &c., and this was the only thing, out of all described above, and several minor ones, which seemed not to have an injurious effect.

Notwithstanding all these remedies—notwithstanding the patient lived, after the physician was called, for *thirteen days*—notwithstanding his medical education, experience, boasted knowledge of the human system, of the laws of fluids, and all the other laws which science has discovered our constitutions to be governed by—and notwithstanding the *regular faculty* have, (as the physician gratuitously remarked), all the experience of thousands of years, preserved and handed down to them, and this mass now in their possession—notwithstanding all this, his patient died.

Without pausing to make further comments on the above, it will not be out of place here to observe, that the physician stated that the disease was beyond the power of medicine—that it was impossible to break it up—that it must have its course—and that all that could be done was, to give medicines to “operate upon the system,” and “tonics to keep up the strength until the crisis or turn of the fever!” This, it is true, was not believed; yet, “O tell it not in Gath!” this course was longer permitted, in the delusive hope, that still the issue might prove

favorable. Why does the physician continue his visits, when he acknowledges that the disease is beyond his skill? Why not give up at once, and afford an opportunity to try other means, before it be too late? Is it for the *fee*? Is human nature so totally depraved, that life is valueless, when placed in the balance of self-interest? Must domestic happiness, which is the most precious of all our blessings and privileges, be placed against dollars and cents? But, the “tonics”! what of them? Perhaps medical attendance is necessary to prescribe them? Here they are; read and judge. A tea-spoonful of thin gruel, once in four hours, and a tea-spoonful of gum Arabic, as often; toast water, occasionally a little; great caution necessary to prevent over-loading the stomach! A table-spoonful of very weak wine and water, every two or three hours; with small doses of nitre, to prevent the patient from experiencing any benefit from its stimulating effects! How long, think you, reader, would it take to restore a patient’s strength, and remove a desperate disease, with such treatment as this? Nay, but how long would it take to send the most robust and healthy person to his “long home”? Shame, shame on such outrageous quackery!

In order to be as brief as possible, let us now turn our attention to the third proposition, which is this: Why it is believed that a different mode of practice would have produced more favorable results?

The disease was caused by a violent cold, at a time when the strength was very much exhausted, and the nervous system completely broken down by injudicious treatment. Medicines should have been given, to keep up the heat of the stomach, and prevent the ravages of canker, with which it was fast being filled,—as well as all other parts of the system,—until the cause could be removed. Injections, composed of medicines calculated to regenerate the bowels from their torpid state, to remove canker, prevent mortification, and restore the heat and energy of those parts, should also have been freely used. Had these two things been thoroughly done, it may reasonably be presumed, that the pressure on the brain, which had been induced by an obstructed circulation, would have been removed; which having been accomplished, the greatest difficulty was overcome, and the patient, although confessedly in a very critical situation, restored to health. It was not in the nature of the medicines used—nor, indeed, of any which the regular faculty give countenance to—to accomplish this important and desirable end. But those discovered and used by Dr. Samuel Thomson—in cases similar, and even more critical, with perfect and complete success—are, in their nature, (and experience has abundantly proved them to be so—pre-eminently calculated to do it. These remedies are Thomson’s Emetic—Cayenne—Bayberry—Nerve Powder—and Rheumatic Drops, both by injection and otherwise. The first to cleanse the stomach—the second to drive out the cold

and restore the heat—the third to remove the canker—the fourth to quiet the nerves—and the fifth to prevent mortification, and for other purposes which those acquainted with it know it to be valuable for. Had these things been administered, and produced the desired effect, as undoubtedly they would have done, then a thorough course of medicine, with steam, would have completely cleansed the system from disease, and by the administration of proper medicines to restore the digestive powers, and natural strength of the system, it may reasonably be presumed that health would have been restored. At least, the event has proved, that the other system, with all the claims which its advocates set up for it, was insufficient for the purpose; and experience has fully proved, that the Thomsonian system *has* performed cures in similar cases, is congenial to the system, acts in unison with the operations of nature, and is calculated to remove the cause of disease, which the other is not.

With a few more remarks, which, for want of room, must be deferred till the next number of the Manual, this subject will, for the present, be dismissed.—J. C.

THE THOMSONIAN VINDICATOR.—This is the title of a periodical, published in New York city, by S. W. Frishbie. It appears to be very friendly to Dr. Thomson's system and practice of medicine, though we think it is a little too fastidious in regard to words. It is well known that Dr. Thomson has made little or no pretensions to *literary* knowledge—his knowledge being all of a practical, and, of course, of a more useful character. If he be understood, it is all that is necessary, and all that should be expected. The Editor has commenced a series of numbers on the "Thomsonian Theory." In No. 2. of this series, in the 'Thomsonian Vindicator,' of October 8, he criticises on the theory of Dr. Thomson, so far as regards the expression "HEAT IS LIFE, AND COLD IS DEATH."—And to show the ingenuousness of this Editor, we insert the following paragraph:—

"But if heat is life, it would be impossible to destroy life by heat; whereas directly the reverse is the case; and heat, if not properly modified, is as sure to produce death as any other agent on earth; therefore, if Dr. T. says "Heat is Life," we say Heat is Death! Doctor, how will you please to fix it?"

How candid! How ingenuous for a friend!! Dr. Thomson speaks in relation to the life of man; not of cold-blooded animals, much less of vegetables. Neither does he mean, or expect to be understood, that heat is animal life in the abstract; but only, in all warm-blooded ani-

mals, and of course man, heat is essential to life. And to a certain degree of temperature, if heat be generally diffused throughout the system, the greater the degree of heat, the greater degree of strength and activity. Now let this *sapient* editor philosophise on heat as long as he will, he cannot get away from this statement. Dr. Thomson does not say that there is nothing else that is essential to life; but he admits it; neither does he say but that heat may be so intense as to destroy life; for this also he must admit. But this is not the question: it is, will any of his medicines, if taken into the stomach, in moderate and reasonable quantities, as he has prescribed, produce this effect?

After all, we do not perceive that the Editor of the Vindicator, with all his philosophising, has made the principle or theory of life any more clear than the unlettered man—SAMUEL THOMSON.

QUACK.—What is the true meaning of the above term?—and to whom does it apply? These questions we intend briefly to consider. Walker defines it as follows:—"Quack: a boastful pretender to arts which he does not understand; a vain boastful pretender to physic."

The commotion caused in the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the Boston Medical Society, by one of their members, Dr. J. S. Bartlett, *presuming* to give countenance to, and recommend, a certain individual—not one of the cabal—is pretty generally known. The opposition which Dr. B. has met with for his *presumption*, seems likely to be productive of some little good to the community, as tending eventually to break up the organization of the forces of the regulars—a combination which we believe is not only unjust but unconstitutional. The above-named Societies seem determined, if possible, to break down Dr. Bartlett's influence and character as a medical man. And he, on the other hand, seems determined to leave no means unessayed, to "show up" those Societies in their naked deformity. Dr. B. says, in a communication in the Boston Morning Post of Dec. 14, that he subscribed to the laws of the Mass. Med. Society with an understanding that they were binding on him only "*so far as they are compatible with morality and the general good of mankind.*" And whether these essentials are characteristic of the laws of that Society, he says

"will be shown speedily." Dr. B. intends to make thorough work, as will be seen from the following paragraphs:—

"Will the public coincide with me in the position that governments of any kind whatever, are instituted among men for the security and protection of their lives, liberty and happiness, and that when any form of government, whether general or local, whether operating on the whole or a portion only of the community, becomes subversive of those ends it is the duty of those interested to investigate it, and if requisite, to alter or abolish it.

"If the people of this Commonwealth believe as did their fathers, it is not necessary to hesitate with regard to the nature of the answer which will be given, and given, too, by the voice of the next Legislature, when the vote is taken on the questions—"Is the Charter of the Massachusetts Medical Society rendered invalid by any flaws in its composition?" "Is the existence of the same charter compatible with the existence of that of Harvard University?" And, again—"Is the same charter valid or legal when examined by the constitutional tests of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts?"

We are glad this subject has fallen into such able hands. Dr. B. is a gentleman of high literary attainments, and perfectly competent to the task he has assigned himself. And we doubt not of his ultimate success; for he has certainly taken right grounds, and we believe when the subject is brought before the people, that he will receive their countenance and support.

But we are digressing from the subject we intended to consider. Let us return. Dr. B. says, "that the absence of a diploma by no means constitutes a quack, and that its possession, was not so good evidence of skill in the profession as would be success in the cure of disease."

Again he says, "that the ultimate object of the art of medicine is the alleviation or cure of disease, and that he who demonstrates, by palpable evidence, his skill in producing either of these results, is not to be considered a quack; even though he may never have received any regularly attested document, declarative of his competency."

Amen, say we, to the above. We hope no more to hear Thomsonians called "*quacks*." Dr. B. says, further, that he "would that the test of merit, and of skill, should be PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS. This should be the touchstone, and by this ordeal would I that all should be judged."

Dr. B. very justly remarks:—

"It is but a sorry consideration to the bereaved husband, or father, to be assured that the corpse of the partner of his bosom, or his only begotten child, has been ushered out of this world under the auspices of one whose parchment credentials would authorise him to fill half a column with titulary initials, when he may look around him and see his neighbor's wife and little ones, rejoicing in that health which had been restored to them through the instrumentality of some one whom the man of sheep-skin diploma is authorised to denominate a *quack*, because, forsooth, he has rather confided to those great principles taught by the Father of Medicine, than to the Paracelsian doctrines of the dark ages.

"And as little comfort may be derived from the knowledge, that the attentive physician may be fully aware of the morbid appearances which the body of his patient will exhibit at a *post mortem* examination, having been, according to the modern fashion, thoroughly grounded in *pathology*, (would to God that some of our physicians were less expert in this branch of science,) but in his zeal, unfortunately overlooking the very important maxim above quoted, that it is quite as essential to the welfare of the patient to know how to *remove* his disease, as it is to be able to scientifically describe it to his friends at his funeral.

"The latter may wonderfully edify them, but I believe that few would hesitate between edification and cure."

We are heartily rejoiced to see so near an approximation to correct views, as are expressed in the above extracts; and, coming as they do, from one of the regular faculty, we hail them as the precursors of universal emancipation from medical tyranny.—J. C.

QUACKERY.—We do not know when we have seen a more unblushing and sickening piece of quackery, than we found, a short time since, in an advertisement of one Dr. William Evans, in the Boston Daily Times. It occupied two columns and eighteen lines of closely printed type, and it is worth any one's time to peruse it, on account of the extreme *modesty* of the writer! We are of opinion, that if the public do read it, they will have no occasion to call for his pills, as the advertisement alone is sufficient to operate as an emetic and a cathartic; and his erudite pathologic disquisition, will most assuredly endue them with sufficient knowledge of the nature and importance of tonics and anodynes—and of all the other matters which he has so learnedly laid down—to render them competent to their own cure!! He tells us,

likewise, that he shall continue these numbers! In mercy don't, Dr.!! "One's a dose"!!! At least, in the name of humanity, we beg you to allow us a little time to recover from the effects of your first dose!!!!

But seriously, if the public can be imposed upon by such gross and wholesale quackery, as this advertisement most certainly is; then we must believe that their gullibility is boundless. If such an array of impudence and affected learning, will wash any of his pills down the throats of the public, we pity them. But in order that we may not be accused of doing him injustice, we will give a few extracts. We have *italicised* a little:—

"*The Pathology of Prevalent Diseases*, Part 1, By Dr. WILLIAM EVANS. If the medical maxim be true, that "the knowledge of a disease is half its cure," how greatly is it to be deplored, that the knowledge of those prevalent diseases which annually carry off millions of the human race, is not more generally diffused. How lamentable it is that so few of the great human family possesses any information upon a subject in which, of all others, they are most vitally interested. It will probably be an incredible marvel to future generations of the world, that the past should have been acquainted with every thing except that which it most concerned them to know.

"To convey this knowledge *more extensively than has yet been attempted by any other* practitioner, and to direct the attention of the afflicted to those few and simple remedies [?] by which many of the most prevalent diseases may be arrested and removed, is the object of Dr. William Evans, [!] in this and other pathological summaries, which he will publish upon the authority of the highest medical writers of the age. [!] *His instruction will necessarily be brief, but its accuracy will be undeniable.*" [!!!]

Again, he says, that Consumption "destroys about FIFTEEN HUNDRED persons in the city of New York alone every year, and who might be cured by the TIMELY use of Dr. William Evans's Tonic or Camomile Pills, *but not afterwards by any medicine.*" [!!!!]

There you have it, reader! Is not his extreme *modesty* apparent? But he wants to sell his pills, to be sure; and if by these means he can accomplish his object, his *interest* would seem to dictate him not to give way to any prudish notions of false (or even real) delicacy. This advertisement is equalled only by one of that pink of *modesty*, and quintessence of modern quackery, Dr. Brandreth—who has, as the papers say, paid *twenty-two thousand dollars* in one year, for advertising the Vegetable Univer-

sal Pills of his grandfather, the late celebrated Dr. Wm. Brandreth, &c. &c.!! How are the public gulled!

It has been objected to Thomsonism, that in that practice only one remedy is used to cure all diseases. If the objection were true, it would be a very plausible one. But it is false. It is well known that in that simple and perfect System of Practice, but one primary object is kept in view—the removal of obstructions; which are the cause of all pain and disease—but the practice may be varied to suit the condition or disorder of the patient. It is only to such *quackisms* as we have alluded, that this objection will justly apply; not to a complete *system of practice*; but to one simple *box of pills* to cure all diseases.—J. C.

BOTANICO-MEDICAL SCHOOL,

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO.

To the many enquiries respecting our School, we would make the following general REPLY:

On the first of April we commenced the systematic and constant instruction of a Class of young gentlemen, in the true Theory and Practice of Medicine. The principles of the science are clearly explained and illustrated, in so great a variety of ways, as to fix them permanently in the mind. Our practice affords ample means of exhibiting to students the symptoms of disease, the *modus operandi* of medicines, and the various and most convenient and proper *ways* and *means* of rendering the remedial agents and the curative processes effectual.

The science of Botany is familiarly and practically taught in such a manner as not only to acquaint the student with the Botanic Materia Medica, but to enable him to examine the whole vegetable kingdom with pleasure and profit. It is illustrated, not merely by books and plates, but by anatomical examinations of the natural subjects, and by oral instructions in the field, as well as in the lecture room. Each student is taught to label and preserve plants for his future benefit.

Instructions are given and Lectures delivered on Natural Philosophy and Chemistry. Much attention is devoted to Midwifery, and the forms of Disease peculiar to Women and Children.

Anatomy, Physiology and Surgery, receive all desirable attention, and the old theories and practices meet their just due, in a thorough examination, and comparison with the Botanic.

The Botanic Text Books, are, Dr. Thomson's Narrative and New Guide to Health, Dr. Robinson's Lectures, the Thomsonian Recorder from the beginning, the Discussions between the Mineral and Botanic Faculties, A. C.'s Manuscript Lectures on the Science of Medicine, on Midwifery, and the Diseases peculiar to Women and Children, Eaton's Manual of Botany, Rafinesque's Medical Botany, Comstock's Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, &c.

The best Text Books on Anatomy, Surgery, Physiology, Pathology, Therapeutics, and every other branch of "Medical Science," falsely so called, are contained in our library, to which the student may have reference; but he must purchase for his own,

use, at least one standard work on each of the subjects to which he devotes particular attention.

TERMS.

We have a select and valuable Library, and a room in which Lectures and Instructions are given. For the regular tuition and the use of these, one dollar per week is charged. Students are boarded at the School and their washing is done, for three dollars per week. These may be had in other places, or students may board themselves, at a cheaper rate.

Our bills are payable quarterly in advance, with cash or good security.

From six to eighteen months are desirable to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Botanic Practice. A minute acquaintance with Anatomy, Surgery, and other branches of the old theories and practices, demand a longer period.

A. CURTIS;

Teacher of Botanico-Medical Science.

We have given the above one insertion at the request of Mr. Curtis; but still, we may be allowed to ask, what has all this parade of learning to do with the Thomsonian system of practice? or what has that practice to do with many of these branches of literature? Have they discovered a system better than that of Dr. Thomson? or have they met with better success with it than the original founder has done? If not, what do they want of literature? The proper study is that of patients, together with the nature and operation of medicines. What does the student want of the whole vegetable kingdom? What has "chemistry" or "natural philosophy" to do with the botanic medicine?—However useful these sciences are in themselves, yet where is the necessity of connecting them with the Thomsonian system of practice? It would seem that the object is to make a craft of it, the same as all other crafts have been made; and as long as this is the case, it can have no aid, neither ought it to expect any, from Dr. Thomson.

"Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep,
And in his gentle show he harbors treason."

Thomsonians cannot be too cautious of the cunning devices set to catch them, by a certain class of persons, yclept "regulars," who watch for and improve every opportunity which offers, to wean them from their system; and this, too, with such an appearance of candor and frankness, as to deceive even the most thorough-going, if they are not possessed of sufficient shrewdness to detect their dissimulation. The artifice to which allusion is made, is this: Whenever a "regular" happens to meet with a person who is known to be in favor of Thomsonism, he

will, with great show of honesty, admit that some of Thomson's remedies are good in some cases. For instance, steam will be approved of to one person, in certain cases, and all the rest condemned. Rheumatic drops, it will be said to a person with a fever, will do good *if used externally only*, in cases of old chronic rheumatism; but must not, on any account, be used in his case; and so of all the rest. Then comes a learned dissertation on the experience and scientific knowledge which our erudite diplomats possess, of the laws of fluids, etc., and the action of the different articles used in Thomson's practice, upon the system; injurious, of course, in all cases. Then boasts are made of complete and thorough knowledge of Thomson's system, root and branch. If it be objected, by the Thomsonian, that Dr. Robinson, and many eminent physicians, have approved of the system; the sarcastic reply is, *And who is Dr. Robinson, pray? Call at my office, and I will convince you of the truth of what I say!* Exhibit an anatomy, probably; and bewilder the senses with pathology. Such "tricks upon travellers" may entrap the unwary and uninformed; but those whose faith in Thomsonism is based upon a thorough knowledge of the subject, will remain uninfluenced by all such devices.—J. C.


THE NEW YEAR.


We had almost forgotten, in the hurry of business, that the present number of the Manual commences the new year. We have time and space, in this number, to say but little more than to wish our friends and patrons a *Happy New Year*.

The Manual is the only publication in the New-England States, which is devoted exclusively to the cause of genuine Thomsonism: Its terms are exceedingly moderate; and its mechanical execution unequalled by any similar publication in the United States. Hence it will follow, where no pains or expense are spared, that unless it be patronised liberally, it must be a losing concern. The low price at which it is afforded, renders it absolutely indispensable that we should have at least ONE THOUSAND good subscribers. This number we have not as yet obtained; and although subscribers still continue to come in, yet altogether too slowly to meet our wishes. We trust our friends will not be lukewarm; but will make immediate and decided exertions in our behalf; and we assure

them that their efforts shall be seconded by ourselves to make the Manual as much more interesting and useful as possible. The cause most assuredly requires such an organ, in this section of our country. But it cannot be expected of the Publishers, that they will continue the publication at a loss, although they would not hesitate about its continuance, provided it can be made to pay its way. Of this, however, we do not despair; but we throw out these timely hints, that our friends may be aware of the necessity of rendering us all the aid in their power.

We could, with the greatest ease, find interesting, instructive and useful matter, sufficient to fill the pages of the Manual, even if it were published semi-monthly instead of monthly; and we hope, ere the completion of the present volume, that our patronage will warrant us in issuing it as often as once a fortnight. — J. C.

 We have been compelled, by press of matter, to omit a number of communications and editorial articles, intended for this number, and which, as we are anxious to lay them before our readers, shall meet our earliest attention. — S. B. Aden's communication has been received, and shall appear in our next. — J. C.

 NOTICE to *Thomsonians, and all others friendly to the system of medical practice, as taught by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON.*

There is a person in Boston, who is prepared and is well qualified to go out and deliver one or more lectures on the above system of practice, in any place wherever he may be called, and a sufficient encouragement be given. He will carry out Family Rights, and other books in relation to the subject for sale.

N. B. Any Letters addressed (post paid) to the Publishers of the Thomsonian Manual, No. 33, Washington street, Boston, will meet with immediate attention.

EXPERIENCE VS. THEORY. — On the recent trial of Ackley, for murder, Dr. D. L. Rogers was interrogated by the Court as to the degree of sensitiveness in the flesh, muscles and bones of the human frame. "As to the latter," said he, "it possesses no sensibility or feeling whatever; it is true it is a prevalent and vulgar, although an incorrect notion, that the bone is sensitive, — that, however, is untrue, for there is no such thing as pain in the bones." "I'll be d—d if I believe it," said a gentleman who was sitting in Court, "for I am now suffering most infernally from rheumatism in my jaws, and I am sure that that pain is in my jaw bone, and nowhere else." — [N. Y. Transcript.]

However badly the rheumatism may have

affected the gentleman in other respects, it is pretty certain that his jaw was not *laid up* by it.

A CARD.

"O that mine enemies would write a book."


THE PUBLIC are hereby informed, that I tender my unfeigned acknowledgments to the *Honorable Mr. B. Badger, Esquire, "Ex-Editor"* of the New York Weekly Messenger, for his *extraordinary display of talents, deep research, and splendid classical acquirements*, and above all, his *peculiar regard for truth*, so fully demonstrated and set forth in the following communication, headed "QUACKERY." Being willing to contribute my mite towards freeing the people from the tyranny of the school of physic, I freely pay for the continuation of said communication, as among the most efficient means for accomplishing that object.

HIRAM PLATT;
President of the Steam Doctors in Connecticut.

By his Private Secretary, JUSTIN PRIOR.

I certify the above to be a true copy,

DANIEL G. CHASE, Student.

 Editors would promote a good cause by giving the above card, and the following communication, in connection, a few gratuitous insertions in their respective papers:

QUACKERY:

A few months since, a green, good natured, up country Jonathan of a yankee, found his way to this city, strolled into a tailor's shop, and offered his services as a journeyman; but the tailor not being in want of an extra hand that day, invited him to call again. Accordingly, a few days afterward, the gentleman called and said he believed he should relinquish the tailoring business, as he had purchased a patent right to practice medicine on the Thomsonian system; and intended to establish himself as a doctor. Soon after, his advertisement appeared in newspapers, in glowing style and conspicuous characters. As a matter of course, the Tailor-Doctor's office was thronged by the credulous part of the community; and as another matter of course, more than twenty valuable lives were soon sacrificed to the wonder-working powers of this new fangled medical practitioner. So I am credibly informed, and verily believe.

One case in particular, which I heard related by the celebrated Dr. F., was distressing in the extreme. A respectable lady, (Mrs. C., of New Britain,) being in a delicate state of health; who should be employed but the Tailor-doctor! The infant born, soon left this vale of tears—the distressed mother was plied plentifully with Lobelia, dose upon dose, until she was in the agonies of death, when Dr. F. was sent for, and arrived just in time to see her expire in the arms of her agonized husband.

Now, brother Editors, I beg leave to inquire whether there are any vacant cells in the prison at Wethersfield? If there are any, this Tailor-doctor should have the privilege of occupying one of them during his natural life—at least, this is the the opinion of an

EX-EDITOR.

Hartford, Sept. 22.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1836.

[NUMBER 4.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, and sent to subscribers on the following

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Twelve copies will be sent to any person *one* year who will remit us *ten dollars* at one time.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, or JOHN Q. ADAMS.

AGENTS FOR THE MANUAL.

N.B. We have not inserted the names of any of our list of practitioners, as we wish them, one and all, to act as agents for the Manual. Any who do not choose to act as agents, will please notify us of the fact, and recommend some one, if they know of any, who will.

Massachusetts.

Chesterfield, B Gardner
Charlton, J Wilson
Dudley, P Carpenter
Dedham M. Village, T
Carlisle

Falley's X Roads, P M
Fall River, B Anthony
Fairhaven, J Tabor
Haverhill, J Fowle
Longmeadow, J Hale
Leominster, T Hills
Mendon, B Staples
Milton, J H Williams
Monson, C Day
N Brookfield, A C
Barnard

N Fairhaven, O Nye
New Bedford, A Nye
N Scituate, T Cortbell
N Bridgewater, W P
Peaks

Pelham, S Cook
Plymouth, S G Barnes
Quincy, C J Stuart
Richmond, W Pierce
Randolph, M Clark
Stow, O Wright
S Scituate, W Studley
West Newbury, J B
Little

West Cambridge, P B
Fessenden
Newton Corners, G
W Morse

Rhode Island.

Coventry, D G Chase
Newport, E Hazard
Providence, O E Tabor

Maine.

Bucksport, H N Pollard
East Thomaston, A E
Russ
Hallowell, P Stickney
Lewistown, O Wright

New Hampshire.

Dover Rev Mr Canavan
Exeter, G W Goodwin
Fitzwilliam, J Nichols
Nashua, G E Morrill
Rindge, C B Ward
Sanborn, E Hunt

Vermont.

Addison, M Wood-
worth
Londonderry, J Arnold
Mt Holly, J Heming-
way

Connecticut.

Enfield, P Parker
Ellington, C K Belknap
New Haven, S Rich-
ardson
New Britain, F B Smith
Sharon, C Sterling
Salisbury, G W Ster-
ling

New-York.

Boonville, A Hill
Henrietta, I Anthony
Malden Bridge, R Her-
man
N Y City, J Rogers
New Hartford, D B
Tuttle
Royalston, P Bixby
Saratoga Springs, J
Shepherdson

Ohio.

Ripley, J Bratten
Maryland.

Baltimore, G Meyer
& Co

Elkton, J P Stabler
Illinois.

Danville, L Anderson
Quincy, Dr P Hovey

Kentucky.

Henderson, Dr J D
Smith

Virginia.

Norfolk, A A Martin
Petersburg, T T Estes
Wheeling, W Richards
South Carolina.

Charleston, Nardin &
Wood

Cashville, J M Child-
ress

Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, Dr A
Weeks

District Columbia.

Washington, S Cart-
wright

Mississippi.

Raymond, A A Clarke

Alabama.

Chambers C H, S
Thomson & Co

Jonesboro, J Kelley
Indiana.

Covington, B Clark
Crawfordville, J W
Griest

Salem, D Cadwalader
Georgia.

Midway, E R King
Warm Springs, V Cor-
ley

Arkansas.

Batesville, G Gill
Tennessee.

Brownsville, Dr R Mc-
Legan

Clarksville, Harrison
& King

Lagrange, S Rutherford
Moscow, W J Glover

Mt Holyoke, M T Spare
Morgantown, J Moore

Paris, S B Aden
Sandy Spring, Dr J
Douglass

Wesley, A Burroughs

There is much truth and sound sense in the following observations, which we commend to the careful attention of all, and particularly to those more immediately interested, our young men. The facts disclosed cannot have escaped the scrutiny of any who have had an opportunity of judging of the difference between the physical condition of the young men half a century ago, or even twenty-five years ago, and what it is at the present time. And so far are we now from any improvement in this respect, the evil is actually increasing every day, and must inevitably continue to increase, while the existing state of society remains. The arbitrary and pernicious customs that fashion imposes, if they do not absolutely kill their victims in the outset, leave them but the mere wrecks of what they were, unfitted for any rational enjoyment to themselves, or benefit to others. Intemperance in drink doubtless still continues its ravages upon human life, although in a diminished ratio to that which formerly existed. It cannot, therefore, be now said, as it once was, that our young men owe their ill health and debilitated

constitutions mainly to this practice, for since the cause is for the most part removed, the effect ought in consequence to cease. But the fact is otherwise. There are as many pale and sallow countenances, and as many feeble and emaciated bodies, as ever; and the multitude look on and stand aghast with wonder that it is so. They seem to forget that there is any other species of dissipation besides liquor, and cannot be made to believe that it is only one of the many. But the evil, we think, lies in the Intemperance of Fashion, which, in truth, numbers in its train all the "ills that flesh is heir to." Let the reformers of the present day begin a crusade against this colossus, and weary not in their endeavors until it is accomplished, and a new and better state of things will then succeed the existing order of society. The friends of temperance did well as far as they went, but in their warfare they lost sight of the most important foes worth vanquishing,—the fashionably intemperate "in high places." Let the siege be raised against them, and society will awaken as into new life.—Ed.

OUR YOUNG MEN.—The question is frequently asked, Why are not our young men as robust and healthy as they were half a century ago? And what is the reason that so many die young, and so few live to old age, or even middle life? We will endeavor to answer these queries agreeably to our own observations. In the first place, young men a half century ago, were brought up and educated to more industrious, economical and temperate habits. They were then under tutors and governors, and compelled to be obedient to their parents and masters. They were made to retire to bed early, and to rise early, and to exercise themselves at some kind of manual labor previous to attending to their studies, if they were students; if they were not students, they were obliged to earn their breakfast (at some kind of work) before they ate it. Their food then was much coarser and plainer, and therefore more healthy. If the same kind of conduct and living were pursued now towards our boys and our young men, they would be as healthy and robust as their predecessors were, and live to as great an age; and so would our young women. But manners, customs and living, have changed. Now, our children are masters; they turn night into day, and day into night. They sit up until midnight, and all the beautiful atmosphere of the morning has passed away before they are up! It is really so! and instead of being early put to some useful labor and exercise, they are permitted to loiter and idle away their precious time, and to eat and drink the hard earnings of others! No wonder that there are fifty paupers now where there was one then.

Many of the young men of the present day who find an early grave are guilty of suicide! They actually kill themselves by intemperance in meats and drinks and dissipation. They live five years in one,—that is, they eat and drink as much in one year as would serve a healthy and temperate liver, five! not to enlarge upon the alarming dissipation of our young people, which sweeps away thousands to an early grave every year. If there should not be a speedy reformation in the conduct of young people, a man of fifty or sixty (should there be such a one) will be looked upon in a few years with admiration and astonishment. — [U. S. Gaz.]

[Original.]

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

In compliance with the requisition contained in the last number of the Manual, to render its permanent establishment certain, I inclose in this ten dollars, for twelve copies of the present volume. I expect, in a short time, to forward you ten dollars more, for subscribers, (as I have half of them already.)

The example of your correspondent, Mr. Ffrench, is quite a laudable one; indeed, as the design of the Manual is to disseminate true knowledge of the Thomsonian System—detect and expose every thing pretending to be Thomson's System of Practice, which is not purely so, it should be scattered as much as possible among the people. Therefore, let each Thomsonian first use his influence to obtain subscribers; if he fails, then imitate the example of Mr. Ffrench, if necessary. But I have no doubt that the energies of Thomsonians will not only render its permanent establishment certain, but will, by the expiration of the present volume, increase the patronage sufficient to justify its publication semi-monthly, which is the wish of the present writer; one very great objection which many have to it is, because it does not come often enough.

The System is taking deep root in this section; there have been some remarkable cures performed by it here, as well as every where else, where it is strictly attended to. Notwithstanding, three years ago, we had not a half dozen to advocate the cause with us, we have now, I think, a majority of the citizens in its favor. Mongrel practitioners impede the progress of the cause in this section somewhat, but the success attending the practice of genuine Thomsonians, will have a tendency to guard the people against such characters.

Yours, in the true Thomsonian faith,
S. B. ADEN, T.B.P., Agent for Dr. S. Thomson.
Paris, (Tenn.) Dec. 14, 1836.

[We reply to the queries in our correspondent's private note, that he may forward bills of any banks in the New England States, or gold. There is no necessity of sending bills half at a time, as our letters seldom fail. Our corres-

pendent can forward us money at any time, free of postage.]

As the regulations of the Post Office Department, provides for the transmission of letters on business, free of postage, to the Publishers of periodicals, we wish our subscribers to understand, that it is the duty as well as the privilege of all postmasters, to frank letters containing subscription money to periodicals; also to ask for back numbers. This is a wise provision of the law, for the mutual benefit of the government and the people; and the postage on the papers sent, is sufficient to pay for the privilege. If it were not so, the postage on letters would stop all the weekly papers and monthly publications in the United States; and, of course, frustrate the design of the newspaper regulations of the Post Office Department; which is to facilitate the universal diffusion of knowledge. The December number of the Thomsonian Recorder, contains an article on this subject, from which we make the subjoined extracts. — J. C.

"We sometimes receive a letter enclosing \$2 for the Recorder, postage 50 cents; another asking for lost numbers, 25 cents; another, saying, "so few of my papers come, and those few are so much damaged by wear and water, that I take no pleasure in reading the lonely stragglers—please to stop them." This also is charged 25 cents. Every number of our paper costs us more than 100 dollars. The subscription price is \$2. The postage paid is \$1. *Where is our profit?*

"The Postmaster's franking subscription money, then, is not a gracious favor from him to an individual, but a judicious regulation of a wise government. He who refuses to do it for any one who applies, neglects his duty. But the applicant must know, on his part, that his letter must contain nothing else than these, or similar words:

"The proprietor of the ——— will place the enclosed \$—— to the credit of A. B., &c., at ——— Post Office, ——— County, and ——— State.
C. D.

or

"The proprietor, &c. will send Nos. 1, 2, 3, &c. (missing) to A. B., &c., ——— Post Office, ——— County, ——— State.
C. D.

"If they contain any thing else, they are subject to letter postage, and this we suspect is the true reason why any Postmaster may have refused to send letters containing subscription money. Let the Postmasters understand their duty, and the subscribers their privileges, and one of the wisest provisions of one of the best of governments will secure the end for which it was made, the universal diffusion of knowledge through the periodical press."

[Original.]

Townsend, Dec. 8, 1836.

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

I was lately called to attend a Mrs. Wood, of Fitchburg, with her first child; and her case being rather a peculiar one, I should like to have it published in the Manual, for the benefit of others, if you will have the goodness to put it in suitable language.

The lady in question has been lame from a child; and for several weeks previous to her confinement, almost entirely helpless; so much so, that her friends were alarmed for her safety, and thought it almost impossible for her to live to have a child; and, indeed, I think myself, that, had she not had a plenty of 3d Preparation, (nature's best friend), seasonably administered, together with flannels wet in hot water applied, her case would have been hopeless. But thanks to that benefactor of the whole human family, the discoverer of such an invaluable medicine, she did live to bring a child into the world, after about 36 hours illness. The child to appearance had been dead several days, which made the labor more difficult. It is now one week since her confinement, and she is doing remarkably well.

Mrs. W. was taken ill on the evening of the 28th, with slight pains, but no appearance of a hasty delivery, until the morning of the 29th, when her pains came on regularly, and her appearance indicated a speedy delivery. I continued giving her composition, with the addition of 3d Preparation, and occasionally an injection, which had a tendency to rest nature, and compose the system for a number of hours. Again, on the morning of the 30th, her travail recommenced with double force, and in about two hours her labor was completed, to the great joy of a kind and anxious husband, and affectionate parents, who witnessed the whole management. Yours, &c. MARY A. STONE.

The above is a correct statement of the case of my wife, and I think she owes her life to the Thomsonian medicine, together with the judicious manner in which it was administered.

GEORGE WOOD.

The foregoing is a true account of our daughter's case; myself and wife witnessed the whole proceedings, and do believe that she owes her life to the Parent of that invaluable discovery.

{ THOMAS GIBSON,
{ HANNAH GIBSON.

We have made no alterations in the phraseology of the foregoing; none were needed; the case is related in a style as concise as possible. We highly approve the plan of obtaining certificates, as has been done by our correspondent, and recommend the example for imitation. Many of our friends can give us cases similar to the above, and we hope they will find leisure

to do so. The condition of the patient, as well as the mode of treatment pursued, it is highly important should be stated. — J. C.

[Original.]

Raymond, Hinds County, (Miss.)

THOMSONIAN RETREAT!

DR. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

It is certainly most pleasing to write of our *success* in any enterprise whatever; but as I am not much disposed to conform to fashionable customs, I would inform you that in four years' practice of the Thomsonian medicine, I have lost four patients; but three of those four were run down by the *mineral practice*, before they put themselves under my care; and three of the four cases were dropsy—the other burned himself to death.

I have heretofore neglected, or rather refused, to write any thing on the subject of the success of my own practice, for the reason that I could not (*in truth*) report a death for every one hundred patients attended. But I will now assure you, sir, that I have kept a faithful record of all I have attended; and I cannot now report a death for every five hundred. This, I am well aware, will appear like exaggeration to all but Thomsonians, but my practice has been principally confined to a few counties (of Miss.) with some short excursions or journeys through the South and West; and if these statements should be seriously disputed, my patients are here, and can be found, to bear testimony that they are really living.

You will be well aware, that in attending on the rise of three thousand patients, in all kinds and type of disease, (to use fashionable slang), I have met with many cases, about which I might say many things; but suffice it to say, that having read your system of practice of medicine, and become fully satisfied of its efficiency, I have uniformly and strenuously adhered to it; and if I were to write my treatment of those several and numerous cases, it would only be writing the prescriptions which are laid down in the Guide to Health, for I have fastidiously adhered to Dr. Thomson's instructions, (*never resorting in any case to bran or potatoes.*)

I do not send this communication, for any personal gratification of vanity, but simply to bear my testimony to the efficacy of a medicine at once safe and sure in its operation—hoping that some honest-hearted, unassuming individual, suffering under the pangs and tortures of disease, may be induced to fly for refuge to this hope, which *you* have set before the world.

A respectable portion of the inhabitants of this State are Thomsonians; and although the cause has been injured by impostors, some of whom we have *hanged* "on a tree," and others should have shared the same fate. We still maintain our ground, notwithstanding there is nearly one hundred M. D.'s in Hinds County.

In fact, sir, we have the freest and best State Constitution in the Union. Monopolies cannot exist in Mississippi. Her noble and chivalrous republicans put them beneath their feet—every man stands or falls by his own merit—untrammelled by superstition, bigotry or fanaticism. We all think and act for ourselves. "We," (*white folks*) "have formed a social compact, and are equal in rights," but *monkeys, African negroes*, and all the *varieties* of the animal race—which we find inferior in *mental powers*, we let them remain in their proper class in the order of Nature. Is this a digression from the subject? It can hardly be thought so—while *Nature* and *Thomsonism* are synonymous terms.

I shall close this (little) epistle, without a *Latin phrase* or a *medical technicality*, for this very obvious reason: I have never administered a dose of either to a patient in my life. If any of our learned friends should feel anxious to know whether the old man is a scholar or an ignoramus, let them come to the *Thomsonian Retreat*, and they will probably find him administering *Lobelia, Steam* and *Pepper*, fully believing that it is better to save life than to kill. I am fond of learned men; but when much learning makes them mad, I want them to stay away from the bedside of the sick, and display their learning by writing large books, and making long speeches, that no one will have patience to read; such are comparatively harmless gentlemen, whose greatest characteristic is Vanity! Vanity!! Vanity!!!

In conclusion, permit me to say, I love and honor the benefactors of my race. You, my dear sir, have lived to see more than any man ever did before you. The discoveries you have made in curing disease, have been received by more of the human family, during your life time, than those of any other man that has preceded you. May you yet live to see millions of your race participating in the blessings of health, procured by your long and faithful labors; and when the long shades of life's evening shall overtake you, look back on your children, and breathe upon them a spirit of universal philanthropy, and rest forever from toil. This is the ardent wish of your friend,

ABR'M ARISTIDES CLARKE.

September, 1836.

THE MEMORY OF THE DEAD.—It affords us a melancholy pleasure to reflect upon the virtues of departed friends; but when we have reason to believe that their exit was premature—that they met an untimely grave in the morning of life—or that their existence might have been prolonged to render happy the domestic circle, and to adorn and benefit society generally by their virtues and example—then it is that we feel the keenness of unmitigated grief—then it is that the shaft of sorrow has accomplished its dread purposes, and rankles in the hearts of

surviving friends — and then it is that the ordinary pleasures of life are irksome, if not productive of misery. Virtue renders us respected and happy whilst living, and modifies the anguish of remaining friends, when dead. — J. C.

THE MANUAL.



“So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength.”—Milton.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1836.

LOBELIA INFLATA—THOMSONIA EMETICA—THOMSON'S EMETIC.—Here are three names which designate the same article. Now, we intend to consider, briefly, which is the most appropriate. *Lobelia Inflata* seems to have been the original name. “The name *Lobelia* (says the Botanic Advocate) was given this plant in honor of M. Lobel, physician and Botanist to James I. of England. Now what are his claims to this honor? He simply discovered the fact that such a plant or plants existed, without having any knowledge of their medical properties, that we know of. James I., King of England, reigned from 1603 to 1625, a period of 22 years, in which M. Lobel flourished. Near 1750 Charles Linnæus, a native of Sweden, systematized the science of Botany on a plan different from any thing that had ever been introduced before, which has been known by the name of the Linnæan System ever since. In this system the *Thomsonia Emetica* was placed according to the above arrangement. This was 125 or '30 years after Lobel's discovery. If it was ever used for medical purposes, which is very unlikely, a knowledge of its use was entirely lost, as a reference to ancient and modern medical writers most conclusively shows; and it was left for Samuel Thomson to discover its properties, and introduce it into general use. But it is very unlikely that Lobel, Linnæus, or any other one, ever made use of it medicinally, as Thomson does, for had it been so, its use would have been immortalised. We leave it for the public to decide, whether Thomson or Lobel has the greatest claim to the honor of giving a

name to this plant.” The term “*Inflata* is descriptive of a particular species of the *Lobelia*, and was probably applied to it in consequence of the inflated appearance of the pericarp or pod.” Forty or fifty species of the *Lobelia* are enumerated by various writers, about ten of which grow in New England.

The plant is biennial; and Dr. Thomson has so accurately detailed its appearance and properties, in his Guide to Health, that all families who own the Right, can easily collect, prepare and administer it. It is useful wherever there is disease, whatever name may be given it. It is chiefly depended upon as an “emetic, expectorant, antispasmodic, diuretic, and antiasmatic,” although possessing stimulating, diaphoretic, and other properties. It has been asserted, by writers ignorant of its properties, that “it is attended with narcotic effects during its operation”; but this is totally false. It is powerful in the removal of disease, but further than this it never goes. Thomson's Emetic, “accompanied by those medicines usually its attendant, by rousing into action the remains of opium and other narcotic poisons, is sometimes thought to produce narcotic effects. This is owing to the narcotic poison already in the system, and not to the effect of this medicine. Salivation is frequently produced from the same cause, that is, rousing calomel into action, and thereby producing its natural effects.”

Dr. Thomson says, “there are two cases, where this emetic will not operate, viz.: where the patient is dying, and where there is no death; or in other words, where there is no disease. There can be no war where there is no enemy.” But we are wandering from our original purpose, which was to consider the *name*, not the *properties*, of this plant. Let us return.

Thomsonia Emetica is a designation which was given to *Lobelia* by Dr. Waterhouse, out of compliment to Dr. Thomson. Now, — without meaning any disparagement to the motives of Dr. Waterhouse, — it does appear to us, that for Thomsonians to adopt that cognomen, would be perfectly inconsistent; inasmuch as it is mystifying names, or certainly a very near approximation to it; and this all know Dr. Thomson is opposed to, for he wishes such designations to be used — and such only — as every person can distinctly and clearly comprehend; and further, to call it by that name, would, instead of awarding respect to Dr. Thomson, be awarding it to

Dr. Waterhouse, who is really the originator of the appellation. We are of opinion, that the most proper designation would be THOMSON'S EMETIC. This would be simple and proper; it would not only avoid an innovation of Dr. Thomson's principle of keeping the names of his medicines free from mystification—a matter of primary importance—but would be paying him a just and merited respect. We wish that all our contemporary journals would adopt this designation, as well as all true Thomsonians. We shall use no other.

The following extracts from an article on "Pure Botanic Principles," which we find in the Thomsonian Recorder, are well worthy a place in our columns; being relevant to the subject under consideration. We hope the Editor of the Recorder will be radical in his views, and will extend his opposition to *every species* of innovation and mystification, which shall be attempted to be introduced into Dr. Thomson's System of Medical Practice.—J. C.

"The pure Botanic Principles," are,

1st. That all vital action is healthy action.

2nd. That, when vital action is excessive, disturbed or diminished, the efforts of the physician should be directed to the removal or the cause of that excess, disturbance or diminution; and, secondarily, to the action itself, till all irregularities be brought to equilibrium at the healthy standard.

3d. That all curative operations and means, are to act in perfect harmony with those of vitality, and that no processes nor medicines that are calculated to check or derange vital action, or injure any of the organs of the body, are ever to be countenanced, used or recommended.

4th. It follows of course that no processes nor means are to be countenanced, used or recommended, with whose sensible qualities and effects the practitioner is not acquainted.

That is, he is not to use a pill, paste or plaster, a pudding, poultice or syrup, a powder, bitter or tincture, nor *any thing else*, whose ingredients and proportions he does not and *may not* know.

Perhaps this rule may shave closely; but the Botanic Doctor who swerves from it in a single instance, has the same reason for departing from it in every other. If he says to his patient or friend, "I sell you a pill, powder or paste, on the strength of my testimony, that it is vegetable and innocent," and of "hundreds of certificates" that it has wrought "wonderful cures," wherein does he differ from Swaim, Phillips, Conway, Morrison, Brandreth, and hosts of other mineral quacks? for all these and "hundreds of others" exhibit the same impudence of pretension, and "thousands of certificates" given "voluntarily," because of the cash, fear or favor

that had excited the operations of the *cerebellum*! (the organ of the will.)

And if that patient take the secret compound, how much wiser is he, how much less cheated, or in how much less danger, than when he takes the mercurialized Panacea of Swaim, or even the "*Pylulæ e Styrae*" of the learned quacks, Wood & Bache? See their Styrae pills.

* * * * *

"But," continues our respected querist, "we sometimes want pills, plasters, liniments, &c., and, as these nostrum-makers do not choose to tell us the materials and proportions of theirs, what shall we do?"

Here, again, we answer, stick to the pure Botanico-Medical Principles.

* * * * *

"But are not Dr. Thomson's Patent Books and Medicines "quackery," as well as these pills, powders, syrups, liniments, &c.?"

By no means. The use of a patent or copyright is only good, viz. to secure to the author only the real reward of his discoveries, and to the purchaser the benefit without imposition. For, *before* we buy a Thomsonian Right, we are permitted to see and know enough to justify us in paying for it, (as for example that it not only cures, in the hands of those with whom it is no secret, our sick neighbor whom the doctors could not; but that all who buy the book and thoroughly *try* the Practice, esteem it beyond *all* price,) and, secondly, *when* we buy the right, we buy also the principles, and a knowledge of the nature and character of the medicines, so that we are able at once to detect, in the case, the least fraud. Now, fraud, cheat or deception, are but other names for quackery, and this again is but another for the want of that benevolence which prefers the speedy and universal diffusion of every known blessing, to the selfish purpose of amassing the trash of this world that must "perish with the using." Had Dr. Thomson kept the ingredients of his six numbers and several compounds secret, and and written his book, in other respects, just as he has; and had he added "an octavo volume of certificates of wonderful cures," we, for one, should never have opened our hands to receive it, much less our mouth to defend it.

"But, do you never use, nor recommend the use, of secret nostrums?"

No: for three reasons. 1st. We always choose to know *what* we do, and *why* we do it. 2ndly. We have yet to learn that they who use them, are more successful physicians than they who do not. And, 3dly. We cannot recommend what we know nothing about. We covet not the benevolence of the man who can withhold from his neighbor the knowledge of the means that might save his life, where no greater evil than his death would result from imparting that knowledge. If, therefore, any are afraid that we shall mystify the Botanico-Medical Principles, by digesting them into the shape of a science; let them turn and ask them-

selves whether, by their countenancing quackery, they are not already in the deep mire of mysticism, and in danger of reverting into the hands of calomel, opium, Swaim's Panacea, Styraç pills, and the—yes, even the use of “the *Lancet*?”

* * * * *

We shall not merely *pretend* to oppose quackery, but act upon the principle to the very letter. Nor shall we connive at it in “Thomsonians” or “Botanics” any sooner than in “rooters” or “miners”—MARK THAT.

We consider it beneath the dignity as well as the duty of a Medical Reformer, to withhold from mankind the knowledge of any thing that we know is calculated to relieve their sufferings; and also degrading to the intellect of any one to be the pander of another's quackery. And we assure our friends that, while our object in these remarks, is not to offend any, but to awaken the attention of all to a subject in which they are deeply interested, (and in some cases perhaps innocently implicated,) we shall never be found in the ranks of medical or any other quackery.

A CASE OF MIDWIFERY.

— No. 3.

In the first number of this series of articles, some remarks were made, condemning the use of FORCE, in cases of midwifery. On this head it is deemed important to make a few more comments.

Having long entertained and expressed the belief, that in all, or almost all, cases of midwifery, the use or application of force—under pretence of giving aid—is not only unnecessary but dangerous; let us examine some few eminent authorities, and see how far that opinion is supported.

A meddling Midwifery is bad.—*Blundell*.

The most disadvantageous position in which the head can offer, is not sufficient, either to prevent delivery, or to endanger the life of mother or child, so much as would be done by the movement of the gentlest hands.—*Edinburgh Practice*.

The rash and preposterous use of instruments has proved the bane of thousands.—*ib*.

The work of nature is too often spoiled by officious hands.—*ib*.

The proceedings of nature in ripening her fruits, in bursting the husks of walnuts and almonds, and opening the shells of eggs without force, when ripe, should teach midwives patience, and persuade them to let nature alone to perform her own work, and not to disquiet women by their strugglings; for such enforcements rather hinder the birth than in any way promote it. They often ruin the mother, and usually the child. Let midwives know that they are nature's servants.—*Willoughby, Ed. Pr.*

The above extracts are taken from amongst many others, which Dr. Curtis, Editor of the Thomsonian Recorder, has collated in his Lectures on Midwifery, and the Forms of Disease peculiar to Women and Children.

It is not pretended, that women cannot be aided, in child-bed delivery. To affirm this, would be running counter to known facts. Every person who has perused Dr. Thomson's Guide to Health, and particularly his Treatise on Midwifery, or who has known any thing of the Thomsonian practice in this branch of medical science, must be perfectly satisfied that very essential aid can be rendered: In further confirmation of this fact, we refer to the communication of Mrs. Stone, on a preceding page of the present number of the Manual.

But the particular kind of aid to be rendered, is a matter of the utmost importance. It should be such as will support the physical strength, calm and soothe the system, relax the muscles; in fine, it should be just such aid as Dr. Thomson has laid down, and which is directly opposite to that pursued by the regular faculty. “I never knew a single instance, says Dr. Thomson, where nature had been assisted according to my practice, that the patient was not able to bear her weight the same day of delivery.”

Dr. Curtis says: “When I reflected on the great responsibility of giving directions which, if wrong, might prove destructive to the lives of my fellow beings, my heart shrunk from the undertaking. But, recollecting to have seen saved by this practice, many lives which had been pronounced hopeless by the advocates of the other, I felt it an imperative duty to proceed, especially as I knew that many true Thomsonians had placed more confidence in the experience of the old school practitioners, than in their own ability and skill to apply the practice laid down in the New Guide, who, could they see the many dangers mingled with the few advantages of this course, which even my limited knowledge and experience might present to them, would prefer a plan of saving thousands of lives that are now *regularly* sent from the child-bed scene, to the place from which no traveller returns; and much suffering to other thousands who escape immediate death for the lingering torment of constitutional injury, produced, as Dr. Dewees says, by ‘ill-judged and rude manœuvres, under the specious pretence of relieving’ the sufferer.”

Painful as has been the detail of circumstances of a private nature; and humiliating as has been the exposure of my own weakness or infatuation; still have I pursued my object to a close;

without shrinking. If what has been said shall be the means of giving Thomsonians more confidence in their system; or of saving one single individual from the "ill-judged and rude manœuvres" of the established practice; if a single tear shall be wiped from the eye, or a pang from the throbbing heart, or a prisoner rescued from the grasp of the king of terrors, I am satisfied — I am more than rewarded. That this may be the case; that some few, at least, of those who have perused these numbers, shall be induced to essay the means of relief, which I have recommended, is my most ardent wish. To Thomsonians I would say in particular, that, be your sickness what it may, adhere strictly to your system; give no confidence whatever to the established practice, or to what its advocates may say of it. Should your strength be exhausted by your anxiety and loss of rest; and your spirits depressed by the opposition of friends to your practice; should they condemn you ever so much, and warn you ever so solemnly, that "you will have much to reflect upon if you do not have a regular physician"; if you value life, and health, and happiness, give their admonitions no heed, remain inflexible to their reproaches, and be uninfluenced by their frowns. And, finally, if you find it impossible to induce them to render necessary assistance, call in the best Thomsonian aid you can obtain, exercise the rights and privileges which belong to you as the head of a family, and receive your reward in exemption from bereavement, or, if death closes the scene, in the reflection that you essayed the best means to avert the dire calamity. The subject of midwifery, in its general bearings, we shall take up at some future time; with the particular case we have had under consideration, we have now, for the present, done. — J. C.

INFLAMMATORY CONGESTIVE FEVER. REGULAR THOMSONIAN COURSES.

In the concluding paragraph of an article headed "Quackery," in our last number, we remarked, that the Thomsonian "System of Practice" "may be varied to suit the condition or disorder of the patient"; although "it is well known that in that simple and perfect System of Practice, but one primary object is kept in view — the removal of obstructions; which are the cause of all pain and disease." That there is a necessity for thus varying the practice, any

one possessed of a moderate share of common sense, must readily perceive and admit. And those who, thoroughly understanding and practising upon Dr. Thomson's system, and possessing and exercising a well-directed judgment, will rarely be at a loss when thus to vary it. As, however, a request "for information respecting the treatment of congestive fever," or "congestive, inflammatory bilious fever," in the Thomsonian Recorder, has elicited some remarks from one or two individuals, we have thought that the mode of practice pursued might be useful and instructive to some of our readers, and we therefore subjoin the following extracts:

"In the first place, I have given the third preparation, in a tea of nervine or No. 3, every half hour, followed shortly after with a strong decoction of No. 3, till the powers of life were in some measure restored. 2nd. Then let the steam on the patient gradually from the steam-pipe, till the perspiration is free. 3d. As soon as the stomach is evacuated, give the patient plenty of nourishment, such as gruel, porridge, soups, &c. 4th. Then give No. 1 seed, (finely pulverized,) a tea-spoonful; the same of No. 2; nerve powder, and No. 6, in a tea-cupful of strong tea of No. 3, every two hours, continuing the steam and giving nourishment. As soon as the stomach is empty, an injection of the Thomsonian kind during the intervals.

"By pursuing this course forty-eight hours, the patients have been convalescent. I then continued No. 2, and No. 4, every three hours; and, in three or four days, I have relieved them from this disease.

"I would here remark that the most implicit confidence should be placed in Thomsonians by the patient or friends, and that they should not undertake any case of this kind, till this is done, and the party be perfectly willing to give the physician a fair trial for three or four days: And I will give my word that the true Thomsonian will be successful."

The above extracts are from a communication of R. S. Gosman, of New-Castle, Ky., who concludes with the following remarks, which, though of a local character, possess some interest:—

"My heart has been pained in two instances that have occurred under my notice, respecting two respectable young men, citizens of this county, that have died lately of the congestive fever. One of them, when first taken, desired of his friends to have me sent for; but "no," was the answer; "it will offend your brother-in-law, who is an M. D." Thus you see that friends commit a serious error.

"The second young man also desired to be cured by the Thomsonian System, and I was requested to go and see him by his father-in-law, nine days before he died. After I had ex-

examiné the patient, I was confident he could be restored to health, to his wife and friends. But they were somewhat divided amongst themselves, whether I should commence or not; and, at this critical moment, the M. D.'s informed his wife and friends that the young man was *delirious or crazy!* At this period, they had given him up, but made one more bold push—and what next? Why calomel was given without mercy, (and the poor man crying for a Botanic Physician.) The next day, by giving oil, the whole brigade of poisons moved from his stomach and bowels, purging blood. He then sunk rapidly, and death closed the scene."

The following extracts are from a communication of T. T. Estes, of Petersburg, Va.:—

"I see, in the last Recorder, advice asked for in the treatment of what the Doctors call congestive, inflammatory, bilious fever. The Editor of the Recorder answers, that he has never treated a case of the kind or type, and then goes on to state the treatment that he should pursue in such a case: that he would put them on a steam cot, &c. He then requests that, if any of the Thomsonian family had treated such a case as the one described by the inquirer, they would state the treatment. The case described was taken with chills and fever; was treated with regular Thomsonian courses to no effect; in two or three days vomiting and purging came on, prostrating the patient with great coldness, and nothing would produce a change.

"I have had five cases as described above, and have been able, through the blessing of God, to cure them all. I commenced, as the inquirer did, with full courses, but found that would not do. I then changed the treatment; gave composition tea in small quantities, adding a little Nos. 2 and 6, and small broken doses of the 3d preparation every half hour for two days and nights. By this time the lobelia had diffused itself throughout the system. I used strong injections every half hour, with tea made of composition, hemlock and pond lily, with as much nerve powder, Nos. 2 and 6, and the 3d preparation as they could bear. The injections quieted the bowels, and restored them to their natural action. As soon as this was done, they became strengthened, and I put them over the steam and steamed them as long as they could bear it, and then took them through a regular course. They were soon up. At the time that I was giving the broken doses as above, I kept a gentle steam up in bed with hot bricks wrapped in cloths wet with vinegar, and a cloth wet with vinegar upon the forehead, changing it every time it was the least warm. This course has not failed with me, nor do I think that it would with any person who has good medicine.

"All Thomsonians should be cautious how they meddle with cathartic medicine in that disease; for I am sure that it would not require a prophet to tell what would be the result."

the responsibility of Drs. Estes and Gosman; it seems to have been judicious, and very successful. — J. C.

DYSPEPSIA.

We would call the attention of our readers to the following extracts from a letter, published in the Maryville Intelligencer. The case was a very severe as well as singular one; and it will be seen that the regular faculty — as usual — were unable to arrest the progress of the malady which was fast urging their patient to the grave. Notwithstanding all their skill, their experience, and the 'accumulated experience of thousands of years'; notwithstanding their boasted knowledge of the human system, and of medical science; and notwithstanding all the advertisements of 'Remedies for Dyspepsia,' 'Cure for Dyspepsia,' and their thousands of compounds for 'dyspeptic persons'; notwithstanding all this, — their patient, in the last resort, and when he had been reduced so low, as to render life a burden, calls in the aid of one of Dr. Thomson's practitioners, and is cured, or at least so far relieved as to be in a fair way of enjoying many years of comfortable health. How vast an amount of expense and suffering he would have saved, had he been in possession of a knowledge of Dr. Thomson's medicine, before he had been attended by any of the regular faculty! How cruel, how unjust is it, for those who know the virtues of Thomson's system, to withhold it from the people; or to throw obstacles in their way, to prevent them from obtaining that knowledge, as many do; and solely from mercenary motives! Are such individuals entitled to the confidence or the respect of the community? Are they suitable persons to trust with the health and lives of their fellow beings? No. Men who will set afloat false rumors — representing medicines as being deleterious, which they *know* are not only *harmless* but *beneficial* in cases of sickness — who will even *testify* to this falsehood in our courts of justice, when they know the truth, (or if they do not know it, they ought not to testify or condemn) — such men are not only unworthy of confidence and respect, but deserve universal execration; and the time is fast hastening, when they will receive their doom from an intelligent, confiding, but much abused public.

Those acquainted with Thomson's system, cannot be too zealous to promote the cause in

which we are engaged. Every individual should 'put his shoulder to the wheel'; and aid us, by every means in his power, to disseminate truth. Will not the friends of the system do this? Will they not exert themselves to obtain us subscribers for the Manual? We feel assured that they will. It is a duty which they owe to themselves, to their friends, to their posterity—to justice, to humanity, and to the venerable founder of the system! We beg them to lend us their aid, and encourage our hearts in the immense and important work before us—struggling, as we are, against the united influence of determined opposition, on the one hand, and prejudice, ignorance and credulity, on the other.

But to the extracts; they are as follows.—J. C.

"When about the age of nineteen, I was afflicted with the pyrosis, or what is generally termed water brash, which continued about five years before I experienced any bodily weakness from it. At length, the tone of my stomach became so far destroyed, that I was compelled to vomit every day, and frequently every time I ate. Finding that my health was declining very fast, I applied to a physician, who informed me that I was afflicted with dyspepsia, and also that he could effect a cure on me in a very short time. Believing, from the assertion of the doctor, that he could cure me, I commenced taking his medicine, and followed his direction for some length of time, but without any beneficial effect. I tried another physician, but still no relief; and so on, until several of the best physicians in the country tried their skill with me. I then despaired of a cure, and concluded that I would take no more medicine, but try living on weak diet, which I was compelled to do, or else labor under a most excruciating pain in the stomach. About two years ago, I became more severely afflicted, and vomiting was more frequent and violent; sometimes I would throw up small worms, similar to the bots, in horses. About the same time, my urine changed to a milky color, in which there would be a number of worms from half an inch to an inch long, about the size of a coarse horse hair.

"But, believing that there were no medicines that would give me any permanent relief, I declined the notion of ever applying to a physician again; and concluded that I would endure my complicated afflictions until death, as a welcome messenger, should relieve me of them all. My weight, which, previous to my affliction, was one hundred and sixty, became reduced to ninety-five. My friends, seeing that I was on the decline, advised me to apply to Dr. Wm. Spillman, of Maryville, Blount county, who was practising medicine on a new plan, called the Thomsonian. And, being informed that he had cured several of the dyspepsia, I was therefore influenced to comply with their request.

And hearing that he was in my settlement attending to a sick woman, I called on him, and conversed with him relative to my situation. He concurred with those that had previously worked with me relative to my disease, but did not give me any satisfaction as it respected a cure; but informed me that he could not undertake my case, unless I would go to his own house. I accordingly went to his house on the 10th day of July last, having then been afflicted seventeen years, and remained with him twenty-two days; after which, I was able to walk home, nine miles. I now enjoy tolerable good health; my weight has increased forty-five pounds. The discharge of worms has ceased, and I can eat any thing that my appetite craves.

JOHN MORRIS.

Gallagher's Creek, Blount county, E. T."

[From the Thomsonian Vindicator.]

New-York, Nov. 17, 1836.

MR. EDITOR,—I have recently had an opportunity of reading one number of your Vindicator, and being well pleased with the motive and object of the work, I take the liberty of communicating with you upon the diseases of my sex. I have known many instances, where premature death has occurred with females, and some in my father's family, in consequence of those diseases, together with bad medical treatment. I do think, sir, that there must be some remedy for female complaints, and let it come from whom it may, I wish to know it.

I am aware there is a delicacy, (and I think, perhaps a false, or at least, a needless delicacy,) on the part of my sex, about reading any thing of their own ailments in a public paper, therefore I only ask you to say in your next number where I can go for correct information on this (to me) important subject. I have suffered much myself, and I have children who may also suffer. I wish to see some certificates of cures, or else to be directed where I can have an interview with some who are the subjects of such cures. If you will notice this appeal, you will receive the thanks of
A MOTHER.

The editor of the Vindicator, makes the following comments on the above; and, in addition, recommends "A Mother" to call upon him, at his office or residence, where "she can be referred to as many females as she may wish to visit, who have been permanently cured of the various forms of disease peculiar to the sex":—

"In answer to the above, we would say, that there is a sure and certain cure for all complaints peculiar to females, in all ordinary cases, and in the greater number of extraordinary ones. The only cases of failure would be, extreme old age, or if younger, the disease, together with bad treatment, having completely undermined the constitution, and broken the stamina of life; or the lesion or destruction of

some important organ or portion thereof?"—ED. VINDICATOR.

If there are any "Mothers" in this section, who are desirous of obtaining a knowledge of the virtues of Dr. Thomson's medicines, in cases of female complaints, we recommend them to call on any of our agents, in the list which we publish, who may be located nearest their residence; or of any other on that list; or, should they prefer to converse with Dr. Thomson himself, they can see him at Dr. Clark's, in Harvard street, when he is in the city. Any letters, which may be addressed to us on this, or any other point, touching the efficacy of Dr. Thomson's medicines, will, if *post paid*, be punctually attended to. No efforts shall be spared on our part, to extend information on this subject. Our object is, to accomplish all the good we can to the human race; and one grand desideratum will be attained toward that object, if we can be instrumental in promoting the health of those suffering from the effects of lingering disease or weakly constitutions. — J. C.

THE THOMSONIAN ASSOCIATION is the name of an association of right-holders of Dr. Thomson's System of Medical Practice, who have organised themselves, and adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, in order to promote the extension of the Thomsonian Practice, and for their mutual instruction and benefit. It is provided, by an article of the Constitution, that any person legally possessing a family right, and practising according to the views of Dr. Thomson, may become a member of the Association, by signing the Constitution; and this provision extends, as we understand it, to all legal right-holders, let them belong to whatever section of the country they may. The advantages which may be derived from an association of this kind, must be too apparent to require any explanation from us.

The first meeting was holden, pursuant to previous notice, on the evening of January 3d, at the Infirmary of Dr. Aaron Dow, in this city. The meeting was called to order, and after the usual preliminary business, a committee was appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws. After which, the meeting adjourned to meet again on Thursday, January 12th, by the polite invitation of Dr. Dow, at his Infirmary. Met agreeable to adjournment, and after the ordinary business, the committee appointed at the pre-

vious meeting made their report; which after being thoroughly canvassed, was unanimously adopted. The most perfect harmony and good feeling prevailed at both meetings, and on points of importance and general interest, there seemed to be a most commendable unanimity of sentiment. Dr. Thomson being present at the second meeting, after the business had been gone through with, addressed the meeting. He was listened to with the most profound respect and attention, and we doubt not that every person present on the occasion, went away with views extended, enlarged and improved.

We were unfortunately unable to attend at the third meeting, which was holden Jan. 19th, but have been informed by those present, that it was highly instructive and interesting. Dr. Thomson again addressed them, and imparted, as he is wont to do, facts and ideas of inestimable value. The fourth meeting was appointed, at the suggestion of Dr. Clark, at his Infirmary, Jan. 26th. The meetings are to be holden every Thursday evening, at such place as shall have been designated at the previous meeting; of which information can always be obtained at Dr. Thomson's general depôt, No. 33, Washington Street.

From the general indications of moral and intellectual worth, which were observable in those who have exerted themselves to organise this Association, we hazard nothing in predicting the most salutary results to the cause of genuine Thomsonism.

In the Constitution of the Association, there is one article which provides that no person who does not practise according to the views and rights of Dr. Thomson, shall become a member of the Association; and another, that "any person who shall not conform to the principles contained in Dr. Samuel Thomson's System of Practice, may be expelled by a majority of the members present, at any regular meeting of the Association." With such views and feelings as the above, there can be nothing to prevent or impede their onward course. And that the Association will be the means of aiding and advancing the cause of humanity, and promoting the individual interests of its members, and the general happiness of mankind, we make no doubt. As we may, however, receive the official account of the proceedings of the Association for publication, at some future day, we forbear making any further remarks, at this time,

excepting so far as to recommend all true Thomsonians to join the Association, and lend their countenance and support in furtherance of its objects. — J. C.

THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC SOCIETY, OF LYNN. — We invite the attention of our readers to the following account of the proceedings of the above-named Society. We are pleased to see the friends of Thomsonism making such praiseworthy exertions in the good cause. We wish them success. — J. C.

LYNN THOMSONIAN INFIRMARY, }
Monday evening, Oct. 24th, 1836. }

A meeting of the right-holders of the Thomsonian mode of medical practice, was held at the above-mentioned time and place, for the purpose of forming themselves into a society. The meeting was organized by the choice of TIMOTHY ALLEY, 3d, *Chairman*, and J. B. TOLMAN, *Secretary*. Then proceeded to the choice of officers to said Society—and the following gentlemen were chosen:—

DR. JOHN R. PATTEN, *President*.

RICHARD S. BUTMAN, *Vice President*.

JOSIAH R. CLOUGH, *Secretary*.

TIMOTHY ALLEY, 3d, *Treasurer*.

A Committee was then chosen to draft a Constitution and By-Laws, consisting of J. B. Tolman, H. Munroe, E. B. Norwood, E. C. Marsh, and J. B. Wentworth.

Voted, That the Society be called "THE THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC SOCIETY, OF LYNN, AND VICINITY."

Voted, That we adjourn to Thursday evening, Nov. 10th.

Nov. 10th: Met agreeable to adjournment; Dr. Samuel Thomson, the venerable founder of the Thomsonian system of medical practice, being present, the business was postponed until Friday evening, the 18th inst.

Friday evening, 18th inst.: Met agreeable to adjournment. The Committee chosen to frame a Constitution reported the following

CONSTITUTION

OF THE THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC SOCIETY, OF LYNN AND VICINITY; as adopted at the Lynn Thomsonian Infirmary, Nov. 18th, 1836, for the better regulation and government of the Society:

Whereas, the enjoyment of health is essential to the comfort and happiness of mankind; and the knowledge of the means of preventing or curing disease in a simple, safe and cheap manner, by vegetable productions, chiefly of our own country, is of invaluable benefit to the human family: and whereas, we have satisfactorily ascertained, that such means have been discovered by, and secured to Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, and through his agency made known to us; we consider it not only commendable and just, but our bounden duty to our fellow-

beings, to encourage and diffuse, in a proper manner, the knowledge of those efficacious means, as extensively as possible:

Therefore, We, the members of the *Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society, of Lynn and Vicinity*, have formed and adopted the following Constitution for the regulation and government of said Society, and for the promotion of the important objects above named:—

ARTICLE I. No person shall be a member of this Society, but such as have legally purchased or obtained the right of preparing and using the medicine secured to Dr. Samuel Thomson, by Letters Patent from the President of the United States; and who practices and administers medicine on or agreeable to the principles laid down by said Dr. Thomson, in his publications relating to the subject.

ART. II. The officers of this Society shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. In case of the absence of any of the above officers, their place may be filled for the time being.

ART. III. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all regular and adjourned meetings of the Society, and keep good order therein.

ART. IV. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside at any and every meeting of the Society, in the absence of the President, and by his request at all times to officiate in his stead.

ART. V. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record all the proceedings of such meetings, file and preserve all papers belonging to the Society, and furnish copies thereof when requested by any of the members.

ART. VI. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to hold all property belonging to the Society, subject to the order of the President, agreeable to a vote of a majority of the members present, at any legal meeting, and keep a true account of all appropriations made by the Society.

ART. VII. There shall always be a full communication of important discoveries or improvements in this system of medicine between its members, particularly at their stated meetings, which information shall be transmitted to the annual meetings. It shall also be incumbent on each and every member of this Society, to impart to each other all such information and instruction relative to the practice, as may serve to promote and advance the most efficient knowledge of the healing art.

ART. VIII. If any member of this Society shall knowingly prescribe, sell or administer poisons, or other articles contrary to the principles laid down by Dr. Samuel Thomson, or shall wilfully or willingly expose a knowledge of the medicine to the injury of the practice, or those who are or may be concerned therein, such persons shall forfeit his or her right and privilege to membership in this Society.

ART. IX. No member of this Society shall practice bleeding, blistering or use as a medicine any deleterious drug whatever. No person shall have fellowship with this Society as a

practitioner, except he shall have obtained an agency from Dr. Samuel Thomson, or his legally authorised agents.

ART. X. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.

ART. XI. The yearly meeting of this Society shall be held on the first Wednesday of September, at such place as the Society may previously appoint.

ART. XII. This Society shall meet on the first Thursday of every month, at such time and place as the President may see fit.

ART. XIII. Any of the foregoing articles may be altered or amended at any legal meeting, a majority of the members of the Society being present.

ART. XIV. The Society shall have power to make such By-Laws and Regulations, for the government of their body, as may be deemed proper, that shall not be inconsistent with their Constitution.

The above Constitution having been unanimously adopted, it was

Resolved, That this Society, feeling a desire to give to the world our most unequivocal testimony in favor of the Thomsonian system and practice of medicine, do unhesitatingly declare, that, so far as our experience has extended, we have found the simple Thomsonian plan to produce all the effects toward removing disease, that we could reasonably expect from any. We know of no other remedies equal to those recommended by Dr. Samuel Thomson, and we firmly believe, that, taken as a whole, none have yet been discovered. We therefore consider it to be a duty we owe to the whole family of man, to recommend to them the Thomsonian system, in its simplicity and purity, and to admonish them to look to and depend thereon, as the surest foundation yet known among men, on which they may safely build a confident hope of relief from the various forms of disease that flesh and blood is heir to. We determine, therefore, that we will not admit into this institution, as a member, any person who, in practice, administers any mineral poison as medicine, or any vegetable medicine of deleterious quality, or goes contrary to the principles of the Thomsonian system, by selling and using Anti-Thomsonian remedies, or affects to conceal from his Thomsonian brethren, any medical secret, recipe or nostrum, or mode of preparing and administering any medicine whereby we might be enabled to alleviate the miseries, mitigate the pains, or remove any form of disease with which human beings may be afflicted.

Voted, To adjourn to Thursday evening, 24th inst., at 6 o'clock, at this place, and that all those in the neighboring towns holding rights are respectfully invited to attend.

Thursday evening, Nov. 24th, 1836. Met agreeable to adjournment, and after the transaction of the desultory business of the Society, it was voted, that this meeting be adjourned.

TIMOTHY ALLEY, 3d, *Chairman*.

J. B. TOLMAN, *Sec'y*.

LECTURES ON THOMSONISM.

Having been called to several places to lecture, since the publication of the last number of the Manual, I will lay before its readers a brief account of my reception, and of the effect which the agitation of the subject seemed to produce upon the public mind.

Monday evening, Jan. 9th, I delivered a lecture at Brighton, on the fundamental principles of the Thomsonian System of Practice. In that lecture, nothing of consequence was said respecting the established practice, but the subject was confined exclusively to an examination and elucidation of the physiology, pathology and therapeutics of Dr. Samuel Thomson. The lecture was delivered in the Town Hall, and the audience, which was very respectable in point of numbers and appearance, listened with the most profound attention and apparent interest. After the lecture, the venerable Dr. Thomson, who was present on the occasion, was introduced to the audience, and made a few very appropriate remarks. Those present, who felt desirous of examining Dr. Thomson's Guide to Health, and several publications on the Thomsonian system, were invited to remain after the meeting adjourned; about thirty did so. Another lecture was then appointed for the following Monday evening. It was judged that there were between one hundred and fifty and two hundred persons present; comprising nearly an equal proportion of both sexes. The subject was rather new to them, Thomsonism having made but little advances in that town, and the lecture elicited considerable conversation and inquiry. Judging from what I have heard, it is reasonable to infer that a favorable impression has been made, that will ultimately produce very beneficial results.

Wednesday, January 11th, I went to North Reading, but found I was not expected! I had previously appointed that evening by letter, an answer to which, requesting me to delay, had been forwarded but was not received; hence the accident. However, as I was there, and considerable time and expense would be thrown away if the lecture were not delivered, it was concluded to have it that evening; and although it was not until after noon that any arrangements were made, and there were some local meetings of considerable interest that evening; yet, by the indefatigable exertions of the friends of the cause, a very respectable number attend-

ed the lecture, which was delivered in the Baptist Meeting-house. The same attention and interest was manifested as at Brighton; and it is thought produced an equally favorable effect. The people of Reading, however, — owing to the untiring and laudable exertions which have been made to disseminate information, and, also, the successful practice of Dr. Jenkins, — are much better acquainted with the subject, than at Brighton. The public mind seems quite engaged at Reading, and, as usual, there are many warmly in favor, and others bitterly opposed: opposed, alas! they know not why. A second lecture was appointed for Tuesday evening, 24th.

Monday evening, 16th, the lecture appointed at Brighton, was delivered. The subjects principally treated on, were, the uncertainty, danger and uselessness of the mineral system, and the certainty, safety and usefulness of the Thomsonian system. The lecture was rather more fully attended than the former one, and the same interest was manifested, and much satisfaction expressed. Among the audience were numbered several individuals of high standing, which was also the case at Reading. A third lecture was appointed for Monday evening, 23d.

Monday evening, 23d, the third lecture appointed at Brighton, was delivered. The subject of the lecture was a brief review of the regular practice of medicine, and of the present state, and future prospects of Thomsonism, together with a brief summary of many of the advantages of the Thomsonian, over the regular practice. The lecture, (owing, probably, to the bad state of the travelling), was not so numerously attended as the former ones; but was listened to with the same profound attention. Dr. Thomson being present, then addressed the audience, and was followed by Mr. Hart, who gave a statement of the cure performed on himself by the Thomsonian medicine, after he had been given over by six of the regular faculty. [As he will, doubtless, send the particulars, at some future day, for publication, I forbear giving the portion of the statement which I recollect.] It was by the exertions of this gentleman that the lectures were delivered. So deep an interest did the audience manifest, that they appeared to be almost unwilling to have the meeting dissolve; and some ladies were heard to observe, that they were “not in the least tired, and would be glad to stay an hour longer.”

So far as any thing has been heard, the opposition find it rather difficult to “raise a breeze” against these lectures. There is only one point that they seem to have been able to get hold of — and laughable enough it is — as will be seen by the following remarks, with which I prefaced my third lecture: —

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Before commencing my lecture this evening, I wish to make a few remarks, touching a rumor that has somewhat obtained in this town, with respect to some observations made by myself, in my first lecture. I should not advert to the matter, had it related solely to myself; but should have treated it with that silent contempt which it deserves. Yet, as I conceive it has an injurious bearing upon the subject which I have had the honor of introducing to your notice, I therefore bring it up, in order to openly and publicly pass such strictures upon it, as, in my estimation, its want of ingenuousness deserves.

The preposterous charge is, that I was *immodest*! When I have surveyed the vista of bright eyes that has greeted my view on the last and present occasion, and recognised countenances beaming with virtue and intelligence, that have honored me with their presence, my senses assure me that the charge is false. And when I ask my heart whether it has erred — whether it has done aught to offend the most fastidious delicacy — whether, in fact, it has not studiously avoided, on every occasion, whatever might, either directly or impliedly, offend the most rigid chastity; I feel assured, either as regards motive or word, I am not deserving of the malicious reproach.

But, “the young man was *immodest*!” say these conservators of the public morals. If he was, he has yet to learn in what immodesty consists! As, however, there may be many present, who did not hear my first lecture; and as I do not deem it a breach of modesty or decorum, I will state on what grounds this charge is made. In that lecture, I treated upon the physiology, pathology and therapeutics of Dr. Thomson. And it was in this latter branch of my subject, that I made the remark, to which objection has been raised. Was it right or proper, in discussing that subject, to omit mentioning a matter of primary importance? Certainly not. Had I done so, I might as well not have said anything at all; nay, it would have been better that I had not, as such a course would have been likely to lead to error.

The remarks to which exception has been made, were those upon the importance of injections. This branch of medical practice is, as I said then, and now say again, of primary importance; and I hope there are none now present, who are so squeamish as to be shocked at my again speaking the word; or whose morality is of so degraded a caste, that they can consider it in any measure unchaste or immodest. Those observations were made extempore.

rancously, and therefore I have not the words to refer to, which I used on that occasion. But my friends assure me that they perceived nothing indecorous in them, and that there was not, I am fully persuaded. The objections were not against the *manner* in which I spoke of the subject; but for introducing it at all.

Those who have passed the censures, best know their own claims to moral virtue; and I thank fortune, that my own intellect is far above the grovelling herd, who will "strain at a gnat, and swallow a saw-mill"! The charge, personal as it is, will have no weight where I am best known; but, believing it was made, more for the purpose of preventing my disseminating information on the Thomsonian system, than for any serious objections on the score of propriety, I have thought proper to allude to it. If the rumor was set afloat by any person so fastidious as to be offended or hurt at what I said, I pity their weakness; but if, on the other hand, it was started in order to prevent my being heard, (which I have reason to believe), I despise the originators of it. Whoever the persons, however, and whatever the design, it is alike one to me; my words and actions are governed by but one motive, and that motive I have publicly proclaimed. And if those who raised the charge are now within the compass of my voice, I would commend them to respect the virtue, honesty, and independence, their insignificant selves cannot imitate!

Tuesday evening, 23d, the lecture was delivered which had been previously appointed at North Reading. It took place, as before, in the Baptist Meeting-house. The flourishing Lyceum of that town, (consisting of more than one hundred and fifty members), gave an unanimous invitation, (with the exception of two votes only), to have the lecture before their body. The Vice President of the Lyceum called the meeting to order. Before the lecture, eight verses extracted from one of Dr. Thomson's poems, descriptive of the four elements, were sung by the choir, to the tune of "*Auld Lang Syne*." The lecture was then listened to by the audience with the most profound and respectful attention. The lecture being lengthy, and interspersed with many extemporaneous remarks, was not concluded until ten minutes past nine. Dr. Thomson being present, was then called upon to make some remarks, but declined in consequence of the lateness of the hour. Eight more verses were then sung, extracted from the same poem, and descriptive of the general rule of treatment to be pursued, when either of the elements of which man is composed, is overpowered; in other words, when any one is taken sick. The tune in which these last verses were sung, I did

not ascertain. The whole went off very well, and seemed to give general satisfaction. There was no clapping or boisterous show of satisfaction, but the profound silence and intense interest manifested by the audience, was the highest encomium that could be paid to the subject or the speaker. It was judged that there were upwards of six hundred persons present; and had not the travelling been rather bad, probably the house would have been crowded. After the meeting adjourned, about thirty individuals accompanied Dr. Thomson from the house, and engaged him in conversation for considerable time. That these lectures will advance the cause of Thomsonism, there can be but little doubt.

These accounts will be continued in the next number of the Manual:


A CARD.—I tender my sincere thanks to my Thomsonian friends, for the noble reception which they have given me; and should esteem it a pleasure to have an opportunity to reciprocate their kindness and hospitality. That our united exertions may tend to advance the cause of Thomsonism, is my most sincere desire.

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN.


N. B. As there have been many inquiries with respect to the name and terms of the person who has signified his willingness to come before the public in the advocacy of Thomsonism, at the suggestion of my friends, I have acknowledged my name above, and will state my terms. I make it a *sine qua non* to have my time and travelling expenses paid: further than this, depends entirely upon the will of those who send for me. My business I cannot leave short of two dollars a day, and must charge for two days unless I can return to the city the same evening on which the lecture is delivered. I would request those who intend to send for me, to do so as soon as possible; my arrangements are such that, unless I go often, I cannot conveniently go at all. By delivering one lecture every other evening, I could go to a distance and deliver three in one week. How is it in Dover and Portsmouth, &c., Dr. W.? J. C.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS.—A late number of the New-York Sun contained the following statement relative to the pills of the scientific quack, and "*man of business*" Brandreth:—"Dr. Brandreth introduced these Pills into the United States on the 18th of May, 1835—and he is

now selling nearly 5000 boxes a day; he keeps 63 men employed, and a Steam Engine in their manufacture."!!!! We recently saw the two first numbers of a weekly publication, called the "Brandrethian," published in New-York city, but have not had time to examine its contents. We presume it has been started by Dr. Brandreth, as a medium through which to advertise the Steam-made "Vegetable Universal Pills of his grandfather, the late celebrated," &c.!—J. C.

 We have seen a long communication of one Martin, in the Salem Advertiser of the 25th January. In the present number of the Manual we have not time or room to reply to him. We beg the public to suspend their judgment till our next; and meanwhile we request our friend Jenkins to give us in writing a full statement of the case of his brother, and of the mode of treatment pursued by Martin until he died, which he related to us at Reading on the evening of the 24th. A number of other cases of the PRACTICE of this individual were related to us, the particulars of which we should like to have furnished in writing; and we will then show the public whether Martin is a Thomsonian practitioner, or whether he uses Dr. Thomson's name to palm off a system of practice as foreign from the Thomsonian as that is from the mineral.

We can only say, for the present, not a single charge of Dr. Thomson has been replied to, denied, or refuted; they therefore all stand as good against him now as before; and we hereby renew the caution to the public as contained in the statement of Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, to which we refer, and wish the Editor of the Salem Advertiser to copy this also.—J. C.

 We have received a very interesting communication from Dr. Aaron Dow, but have not room for it in this number.—J. C.

DANGER OF POISONOUS DRUGS.—The following particulars are from the N. Y. Transcript. Such occurrences are alarmingly frequent, and always will be whilst poisons are used in cases of sickness, instead of medicines.—J. C.

A poor German, named Christian Reyneck, living in 35th street, between 8th and 10th avenues, applied at a druggist's store in the lower part of the city for some rhubarb, which he wanted to administer to two little daughters, aged 3 and 5 years. Instead, however, of being

supplied with that which he asked for, he was served by the persons in attendance with a mixture of rhubarb and opium, a portion of which he gave to his children on his return home. The effect of this scandalous negligence was, that his youngest child died in about two hours after taking this deadly poison, and the eldest on the evening of the same day.

An inquest was yesterday held by Justice Wyman on the bodies of the children, when a verdict corresponding with the foregoing statement was returned. The sufferings of Reyneck on being thus bereaved of his children, can be better imagined than described, and we sincerely hope the efforts which were last evening made to find out the person who was guilty of such wanton negligence, may be crowned with success, and that he may receive the punishment he so richly deserves.

ANOTHER.—The wife of Henry Francisco, whose marriage was announced but a few weeks since at Erie, N. Y., was found in her bed one morning last week in a lifeless condition from the effects of laudanum. Her husband, who lay by her side, had procured it, and taken, as he said, a large portion himself, but which, however, vomited him severely, and his life was thus saved.

PRUSSIC ACID.—This, the most deadly of all poisons, has been obtained from the leaves of *green tea* in so concentrated a state that one drop killed a dog almost instantaneously! The most effectual poison for flies is a strong infusion of Souchong tea, sweetened with sugar—as fatal as a solution of arsenic. The skin of potatoes boiled in water for some time, and the water afterwards boiled down to a small portion, also yields a deadly poison.

AMUSING MONOMANIA.—There is a person in Exeter, (N.H.) who has a strange "crotchet" in his head that he manages and directs the weather. He fancies that he causes the changes of the seasons, cold and heat, rain and snow. He says that he is employed by the Government of the United States to take the charge of the weather, and that the government now owes him many thousands for his services; he has, as yet received nothing for his labor, and is indignant at it. He threatens if he is not paid to quit the business, and "then the people," he says, "will have no weather."

ORIGINAL ANECDOTE.—A pedlar, with his cart, overtaking another of his clan on the road, was thus addressed—"Halloa, friend, what do you carry?" "Drugs and medicines," was the reply. "Good!" returned the other, "you may go a-head—I carry *grave-stones*."

At a place called Dewksbury, are to be seen two sign boards, in juxtaposition. The first is, "Agent for Morrison's Hygeian Pills," the other, which is next door, is "Brown, Joiner and Coffin Maker."

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, MARCH 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 5.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, and sent to subscribers on the following

TERMS.

ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

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Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, or JOHN Q. ADAMS.

[Original.]

MESSRS. EDITORS,—GENTLEMEN:

My sole object in my former communications in your Manual, was, to give such as were right-holders a bird's-eye view of general treatment of disease; and to induce those who have heretofore thought the Thomsonian practice useless, except in cases of "Rheumatism and slight colds," to examine the facts, and drop their unreasonable and unsupported opinions. And I think the reporting of those cases has had, in some degree, the desired effect.

I am exceedingly anxious that my brother Thomsonian practitioners, should report their cases also, and in as comprehensive manner as possible. Give us no "long yarns," as they are seldom read with that interest that short stories are; and besides, all will have an opportunity to be heard from. Permit me to report a few more cases, in as brief a manner as possible.

While in Newburyport, Capt. Amos Noyes, a merchant, took five courses, and several bottles of Syrup, for a consumptive complaint, and has since that time (August, 1835,) enjoyed tolerable good health.

Mr. Young had been five weeks under the care of Dr. S—, with what the learned doctor called slow fever. Mr. Y. applied to me; in 24 hours I razed the fever, (*vis medicatrix nature*), to a healthy point; the cold, which was the cause of the "slow fever" (*vital principle*) soon made its retreat, and the next day the man was at his carpenter's bench at work, the first time for five weeks.

A Mr. Noyes, another merchant, came to me and got steamed for a bad cold and rheumatism, and was cured. He met with his old family physician the next day, who, by the way, is somewhat celebrated for his skill and impudence, who told him that steaming was very injurious indeed. Mr. N. answered, "it is not so, for I feel well, and invigorated by a healthy action being produced." "But," said the learned

and interested doctor, "steaming sweats out the best part of your blood"! Comments are unnecessary.

A Mrs. R., who had had the venereal one year, had taken large quantities of mercury, which had only increased the difficulty, by settling down into her foot, which became a running sore. She took several courses of medicine, and poulticed her foot, which soon cleared her system and she got well.

Mr. Renneck, of Georgetown, D. C., had been two years out of health with dyspepsia; being on a visit to the north, was advised to try the Thomsonian medicines, which he did, and in one week was well.

Mrs. Starr, who had been given over by the physicians as incurable, of the same complaint, (dyspepsia), was with me three weeks, during which time I cleared her system of morbid matter; she soon recovered to a better state of health than she ever enjoyed before. She had been married eight or ten years, without having had a child. The botanic medicines soon brought her to her *bearing*, and she has had one child since.

Mr. Gray, of Salem, took two courses for the dyspepsia, and was cured.

Who will be troubled with this disease, when he may be so easily cured?

Mr. Bartlett, of Belville, cured of a dull, heavy pain in the stomach of long standing, by one course; other medicine to carry home.

Mr. Robert Gunnerson, afflicted about the same as Mr. Bartlett, was cured with one course.

Mr. N. Towle was with me two or three weeks; took eight courses for the asthma, and was cured. This was a very bad case; he had been unable to work for a year; many skillful M. D.'s had done their best, but they only made him worse. It is now one year and a half, and he has not been troubled with that complaint. His father purchased the Guide to Health; and notwithstanding he has a brother who sells poisonous drugs to others, yet to this family he will never be able to sell any more.

The wife of Capt. Somerby had been under the care of an M. D. about three months; he said she was in a consumption, and he could not cure her. She told him that she was about to apply to me. He replied that he should not advise her to do so. She rejoined, "I did not expect that you would, but I shall go." She came; had a violent cough and cold night sweats; she was with me three weeks, and was restored to perfect health again, to the astonishment of all her acquaintances, as well as the doctors.

Mrs. John Webster, of Haverhill, Mass., had been under the care of three M. D.'s; all gave her up as incurable, and gave her disease the name which terrifies most people, consumption. I cured her in one week, so that she was able to perform her house-work.

Capt. Boardman took one course for a bad cold and rheumatism, and was cured.

Mr. Bailey, of Townsend, Mass., was covered with white scales all over his body; he said he had spent \$400, among the "scientific" fools, but they could not even tell or explain the cause, nor prescribe a remedy; on his saying this, I told him I could do both; he was with me one week, and was cured.

Miss Currier, daughter of Dea. Currier, of Newton, N. H., was thought to be in a decline; her first complaint was dyspepsia; she was restored in a few weeks. She, and all her friends, are warm advocates for botanic remedies.

Mr. Johnson, of Salisbury, thought to be in a decline, took a few courses, &c., and was cured.

Mr. Gilman, troubled with canker and general debility. This man I carried through 16 or 18 courses, before I could get a heat that would hold. He was finally cured.

A Mrs. Cheever had the dropsy, and had employed several M. D.'s, but they could not help her. She was at my house two weeks; was reduced in size many inches; she wished to go home, but I opposed it; she insisted upon going, and went; her husband was opposed to the Thomsonian system, and resolved to employ her old "scientific" again, who made some pills and sent her; she took them, as I was informed, and in three hours she could not speak. The husband cleared for the learned friend, who excused himself by saying, "I suppose she is weaker now than she was before she went to the Thomsonian doctor, for they were precisely the same that she took before she went; so I will make some weaker, and send her." He made some, which her husband gave, and in three hours more, she was a corpse. This v*****n tried to spread a report that it was the effects of Thomsonian medicine, as I was credibly informed.

I have a few more cases, which I wish to report; but I fear I have already wearied you, and will defer until a more convenient season.

Your ob't servant,

AARON DOW.

No. 7, Brattle Street, Boston.

[Original.]

HYDROPHOBIA.

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

On the 24th ult., I was called on to visit a black man, laboring under the above form of disease. He had been bitten about five weeks previous, but had felt no effects of the disease until the evening before, when after a hard day's work in the cold, he complained of feeling bad.

In the morning a *regular* was called, who pronounced him a *dead man*, and was then gone for counsel. I told the messenger there was no use in my going until the doctor had given up the case, or the patient and his friends had discharged him. I was called on again, and was told that they had determined to have nothing more to do with the *regulars*, and wished me to take charge of the patient immediately. Accordingly I went, and arrived about the same time with the M. D. He said that he had not given up the case, and should not give it up, &c. I returned, and left them to "cast out the Devil by Beelzebub, the Prince of devils." This was about nine o'clock in the morning. Between eight and nine in the evening the scene closed.

Are you astonished at such quick work? Then what should you suppose *would* be the consequence of a *scientific* feeding with handful of calomel, arsenic and opium, mixed with bread, for ten or twelve hours?

That this man would have died of hydrophobia, had *nothing* been done for him, I do not doubt. But that he would have died so soon by some two or three days, I do very much doubt. *

H. PLATT.

Hartford, Dec. 5th, 1836.

* And that he might have been speedily and effectually cured, we do not entertain a *single* doubt. But *not* by the practice pursued; *not* by the "regular" practice. There was already *poison* enough in the man's system, and it was sufficiently active to destroy life; therefore the only reason, which, in our estimation, any fool, *learned* or *natural*, could assign for giving *more* *poison*, would be, that it *would* hasten death, and thereby prevent protracted suffering. We have on hand a number of accounts of cases of hydrophobia, that have been going the rounds of the papers, and shall endeavor to get them into this number of the Manual. Thomsonians are safe against this, as well as everything else except casualties and old age; and if others are not disposed to "come, and partake of the waters of life," but choose rather to ride out of the world astride a "*diploma*," they are welcome to do it; that's all. But—"Good Lord deliver us!" — J. C.

[Original.]

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

I have, for some time past, been aware of a trick or imposition on the public, concocted, I expect, in the first instance, by *quacks*, (for so I consider the old school practitioners), which I have not, if I recollect aright, seen noticed in the Manual. I hardly think that the people generally, would knowingly take a portion of

rank poison from one to a dozen times a week, and therefore, the quacks, by imposing on them, in this respect, thought to bring the "grist to their own mill." I allude to the practice, (it is also the law!) of using a portion of *saltpetre* in *salting* or *pickling* meats. As our legislators have seen fit, in their profound wisdom, to pass such a law, I think it a duty we owe the public to put them on their guard.

As I do not pretend to know more than what I get by reading and observation, and as I also think that the opinions of those who have made the study of some particular pursuit of more weight than my own, I will copy the following remarks of Professor Rafinesque, which, from observation, I fully concur in. After strongly denouncing the use of saltpetre in brine, he says, "That part of the saltpetre which is absorbed by the meat, is *nitric acid*, or *aqua fortis*, a deadly poison;—animal flesh previous to the addition of the former only possessing nutritious virtue. This is destroyed by the chemical action of salt and saltpetre; and the meat becomes as different a substance from what it should be, as leather is from raw-hide before it is subjected to the process of tanning. I ascribe to the pernicious effects of this chemical change, all the diseases which are common to mariners and others, who subsist principally upon salted meat—such as scurvy, sore gums, decayed teeth, ulcers, &c.; and I advise a total abandonment of the use of saltpetre in making pickle for beef, pork, &c.—the best substitute for which is sugar, a small quantity, rendering the meat sweeter, more wholesome, and equally durable."

As the above observations are from a gentleman of high standing in the scientific world, they should have due consideration. It appears to me, that a petition should be presented to the General Court, for the repeal of this act, and have no law at all on the subject. If any wish to eat saltpetre in this way, why, let them do it. But, in the name of humanity, don't force people, by law, to eat it, if they do not choose to.

Yours, truly,

SILENTIO.

Dr. Thatcher, in his Dispensatory, speaking of saltpetre, or nitre, says, "This powerful salt, when inadvertently taken in too large quantities, is one of the most fatal poisons"; and, of course, if taken in small quantities, it must produce proportional deleterious effects. — J. C.

[Original.]

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

Perhaps it may not be uninteresting to some of the readers of the Manual, to know by what combination of circumstances, I became so far estranged from the good old way, as to become an unwavering advocate of the Thomsonian Theory and Practice of Medicine.

In the winter of 1834, I commenced boarding with a Thomsonian. It was quite a novel-

ty, and afforded me much amusement to hear him mention over his medicines, such as No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, and so up to No. 6. And in order to ridicule him, I frequently expressed a desire to see a specimen of his extraordinary skill. An opportunity soon presented. A fellow boarder was taken in an epileptic fit. A small quantity of what was termed *third preparation* was administered, and to my surprise, within half a minute, his jaws were loosened, and the fit broken. He had a relapse; the medicine was again administered, with the same result as before; after which the patient had a good night's rest, and the next day walked fifteen miles. He afterwards told me that he had been subject to fits for several years, but never before recovered from one short of three or four weeks. Of the foregoing occurrence I thought much, but said little.

In the spring, I commenced house-keeping, in the same house with the *Steam Doctor*, and soon after had an attack of gravel, or strangury. Not being acquainted with this form of disease, it gave me some alarm. I however had by this time learned enough of common sense, to apply to the *steam doctor*, (as every one is called who only has a family right,) and was well satisfied, as from the effects of his medicine, I was nearly well the next day. Soon after, my wife had an attack of cholice. I called up the *steam doctor* again, who relieved her in a very short time, to our entire satisfaction. These circumstances convinced myself and wife that there was efficacy in roots and herbs, even though administered by a steam quack.

My wife, who was formerly strong and healthy, was now quite the reverse, and inclining to consumption; owing, as I was taught to believe, to a run of fever four years previous, but which I am now well satisfied, was the penalty for a violation of *Nature's laws*, in swallowing poison. But, as it was ordered by a skilful M. D., it was all right. The second day of December, she was taken down with a diarrhoea that confined her to her bed. Her sister came to help take care of her. I then recommended the use of the Thomsonian medicine, but her sister said that, as she was quite sick, she needed the advice of a regular Physician. I went for, but could not obtain one. It was then concluded to try the Thomsonian medicine, which had the desired effect, so far as we used it. She soon got about house, but not feeling entirely well, and her sister being so much opposed to Thomsonian medicine, I consented to call a regular. He commenced by giving Blood-root, Digitalis, and Laudanum, for the cough. She gradually grew worse. In about ten days, her brother, an M. D., was sent for, unbeknown to me. He arrived the last day of December, when a council was called, and her case pronounced hopeless, as I was informed by my neighbors, for I could get no information from the honorable gentlemen of the council, as they well knew that I had no confidence in their life-destroying practice. Although my wife was as much op-

posed to their poisons as myself, yet being borne down with disease, her sister in favor of the M. D.'s, her brother one of them, and continually sounding in her ears the destructive effects of the Thomsonian medicine, all combined to make her acquiesce. The answers she made him, however, ought to have silenced him. She said she had taken the medicine and was not dead, but had been helped by it. She continued the use of Calomel, Blue-Pill, Laudanum, Fox-glove, Blood-root, Elixir vitriol, &c. &c., for about two weeks, constantly getting worse. She had now been under their care for six weeks. When they commenced, she was about house, but now she could neither walk or stand, and only sit up long enough to have her bed made. She now came to the conclusion that she must soon die under *their* treatment, and earnestly requested to have a Thomsonian, if one could be had. I went to Hartford, 35 miles, there being no practitioner nearer, and succeeded, returning with Dr. Platt the next day. He carried her through a thorough course, which occupied about eighteen hours, thirteen of which she was under the full and astonishing effects of Lobelia. Immediately after which, she expressed herself as feeling re-animated and invigorated throughout her entire system. The doctor then left, and at the end of two weeks returned and gave another course. From these two alone, she evidently received more benefit than from every other means ever before employed. After this *we* ventured to give her two or three emetics, which always produced a good effect, and in five weeks she was able to sit up two full hours, and walk from the bed to the fire without assistance. I wish it borne in mind, that this was during the coldest part of a very cold winter. The next week, being the sixth from the commencement of her using the Thomsonian medicine, I took her home to her parents, in a sleigh, a distance of forty miles, in one day, when she said she was not tired, and felt as well as when she set out in the morning. The day following, I gave her a course, and a *pious* M. D. then attending upon her mother, expressed a desire to be present, and see the operation of the medicine, which I granted, of course; not dreaming that he would go home and charge me with a visit for the favor, which I afterwards found was the case. My business was such that I was compelled to leave her in the care of her parents, but through the influence of her brother, sister and other pretended friends, she was dissuaded from taking any more *medicine*, and the *pious* doctor above alluded to was called in. He visited her but a *few* times, but when I came to settle his bill, he had charged *thirteen visits*. She continued to fail from the time she left off taking the medicine, for five weeks, when she expired. Then it was reported that she died under the effects of Thomsonian medicine.

A few hours previous to her death, she called her friends to her bed-side, and told them that if she could have had a Thomsonian doctor


from the first, she had no reason to doubt but she would then have been in the enjoyment of good health. I envy not her relatives, especially her brother, who was the principal cause of her pursuing the course she did, all the consolation to be derived from their reflections upon these unhappy occurrences.

DANIEL G. CHACE.

Hartford, 23d Nov., 1836.

Messrs. Editors,—I am fearful that I trespass too much upon your time and space, but my feelings are such that I could say no less. I have seen the safety, the certainty, and the efficacy of the Thomsonian remedies so fully demonstrated, that I feel it a duty incumbent on me and all others acquainted with the facts, to use every honorable effort to diffuse a knowledge of the medicine for the benefit of mankind; and, although neither pardon or reprieve is granted for the violation of nature's laws, or a remedy for the past, yet it serves to soothe the keen anguish of the mind to *know*, that "whereas, once I was blind, BUT NOW I SEE."

D. G. C.

 We beg our correspondent's pardon for our long delay in inserting his interesting communication. Let every reader of the Manual carefully peruse it, and learn from it the impotence of the established practice, the value of the Thomsonian, and the importance of adhering strictly to it. Full well can we sympathise with our correspondent; and keenly has our heart been chastened with the rod of affliction:

"Morn hath its sweetness and its bloom,
And noon its glorious light;
But yet, a summons from the tomb,
A sadness and a blight
Are ever on earth's loveliest things!
The breath of change is there,
And death his dusky banner flings—
O'er all that's loved and fair!"

Whilst we acknowledge our conviction of the uncertainty, danger and worse than uselessness of the mineral practice, we in the same breath most earnestly and solemnly entreat all our personal friends, and the public, to adopt that system [the Thomsonian] to which we are determined to devote a portion, at least, of our time and talents. — J. C.

Why Doctors live longer than their patients.—
"The anxieties of the medical practitioner, his midnight watchings, and the contaminated atmosphere he often breathes, must be sources of disease and mortality. But then, on the other hand, he has one great source of safety open to him, which must tend to render the balance between him and his patients even—he takes monstrous little physic."—*Medico-Chirurgical Review*.

[Original.]

A CASE OF CANKER RASH.

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

On the 28th March, 1835, I was called to visit a child, about three years old, the daughter of a Mr. Burnam, in East Windsor. I arrived at 7 o'clock in the evening, found my patient with a scorching hot surface, extremely quick, small and wiry pulse, respiration short and laborious, and an almost unconquerable desire to sleep. The tongue, so far as could be observed, exhibited but a very slight coat. On inquiry, was informed that two days before, the *rash* had made its appearance, but soon went in again, from which time appearances had been growing worse. Bowels much constipated and swollen. Miss B. Alexander, aunt to the little sufferer, having a right, with full confidence in the medicine, had administered judiciously, and with tolerable freedom, but yet no effect had been produced. In her own words, she had become alarmed, for she thought she had given medicine enough to operate, if it was ever going to. She had given composition with Nos. 1 and 2, and she had given injections, but all to no purpose. I prepared a strong canker tea, (the bayberry alone is my canker medicine in such cases,) added Nos. 1 and 2, *without counting grains*, and administered freely to the stomach, and to the bowels by injections. I also had some hot soap suds prepared, with which the surface was repeatedly sponged, particularly the extremities and limbs. It ought also to be observed, that I ordered the thick, heavy covering to be removed, with the exception of the sheet. And here I will remark, that I think many people err greatly, by burthening the sick with too much covering, while they are laboring under a high fever excitement, *the external heat being already too high*. The above course was pursued through the night, without producing any sensible effect upon any part of the system, until about 7 o'clock the next morning, when, on administering a powerful injection, my little patient, to the terror of the family and joy of myself, became suddenly and greatly distressed, drank herb tea and water with an insatiable thirst, the bowels, also, were freely evacuated, it puked and drank, puked and drank, for perhaps five minutes, during which time it was shaking violently with cold. Then it commenced turning blue, then purple, then black; first the lips, then the feet, hands and face, which continued to spread rapidly, until within a very few minutes, the entire surface became as black as an African. It soon became easy and fell asleep. I now had it covered warm, and applied hot bricks, wrapped in damp cloths. Its face, hands and feet became swollen, so much so that its fingers and toes were distended and stiff. So great was the degree of cold on the surface at this time, that after forcing the blood away by a gentle pressure with the finger, it would take several seconds for the spot to assume its previous blackness. After about an

hour, we could perceive that the dark appearance was gradually getting lighter. At twelve o'clock its natural color had returned, the swelling nearly subsided, and a free perspiration was flowing. At 2 o'clock it awoke, bright and cheerful, and called for food. I soon left, after directing the canker tea to be given freely, with a little No. 2, and occasionally an emetic, assuring them that if they kept it in a proper condition, they would soon find its mouth filled with canker. This, however, they could not believe, *because*, from the first, there had been no appearance of it. The next day, the father called for me to visit the child again, stating that they had kept it warm and moist, and that it *appeared* quite lively, but the mouth was completely coated with canker. I reminded him of what I told him the day before, and finally succeeded in quieting his fears so far that he returned without me. The child was soon perfectly restored.

I considered this an extreme case. And it appeared to me that the truth of the Thomsonian principles were so boldly demonstrated, and the *why* and *wherefore* so self-evident, that the most sceptical, could they have witnessed it, *must have been convinced*.

Query. Was there too much heat in the patient, when I commenced? Will the most *powerfully* stimulating medicines *create* extreme cold on the surface? Oh, the *pernicious* folly of college learned doctors! H. PLATT.

Our friend, Dr. Platt, must excuse us for our long delay in inserting his communication. Press of matter must be our apology; and we give him the assurance, that it will be extremely gratifying to us to hear from him often. We are not generally overstocked with original matter, and are anxious to enlist as many as we can, who write with as much perspicuity as Dr. Platt, to contribute to the pages of the Manual. — J. C.

[Original.]

Extracts from a letter from a Clergyman in a neighboring town, to Dr. Aaron Dow:—

"Although a stranger to you personally, yet having heard so much of you through the medium of my friends in R*****, I feel quite acquainted with you, and should be extremely happy to make your acquaintance personally.

"Thomsonism is gaining rapidly in this place, and will spread every where, provided the system can be examined with candor. Had it originated with Dr. Rush, or some other man of his celebrity, it would, before this time, have pervaded the *whole civilised world*; and, in my humble opinion, it is destined to *do this*, ere long, and Thomson, the *despised* and *persecuted* Thomson, after he has endured the *scoffs*, and *sneers*, and *obloquy* of the faculty a little longer,

will be enrolled among the *benefactors of his race*."

From another letter, previously written by the same hand, I have been permitted to make the following extracts:—

"When I think of the poisons that I have taken, I wonder that I am alive. For *nine months* daily I took arsenic, and the *nine months* next following *mercury* every day. "*I do well to be angry*," when I think of the contemptible artifices of "learned quackery," which are called into requisition, to keep the *light of life*, (if I may so say), from the common people. It is precisely like Popery, I can think of nothing else. If a botanic physician performs a wonderful cure, the faculty cry out for the space of a long time—"Great is Diana of the Ephesians," &c. &c.—Their craft is in danger."

Messrs. Editors,—Please insert the above, and oblige yours, respectfully, AARON DOW.

☞ We know not the name of the clergyman, from whose letters the above extracts are made, but we are glad to see such manifestations of a change in sentiment beginning to be felt by a class of persons, who, for the most part, at least, have heretofore been as virulently opposed to medical revolution, as the regular faculty themselves. We regret, however, that the writer can compare the impositions of the established practice to "Popery," and that he "can think of nothing else." Undoubtedly he is honest, in his belief of the impositions of "Popery"; yet those who have embraced that faith are likewise honest and conscientious, and we would always avoid any allusions which might wound their feelings. We are no Catholic; but her whose memory is cherished as amongst the things "that were most dear to us," was a Catholic, and was educated by them from her earliest childhood; and if all the votaries of Catholicity have the seeds of virtue as deeply implanted into their bosoms, as they were in her's, we should not hesitate to be a Catholic. As it is, we shall ever respect them, and any injurious allusions will always wound our feelings. We speak frankly and honestly; but not with the least intention of giving offence to any one. We are not offended at the remark to which we allude, but regret that it was made. The extracts are from private letters, and it probably was not thought that they would ever be published.—J. c.

To retort an injury is to be almost as bad as the aggressor. When two throw dirt against each other, neither can keep clean.

[Original.]

Portland, Nov. 16th, 1836.

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

I have received the first number of the second volume of the Manual. It gives me great pleasure that it will be continued, and I hope that energy shall not be wanting, on the part of every true and genuine Thomsonian, to secure its permanent duration. I thought a great deal of the numbers of the first volume; but I must say, that the work begins to display a greater share of interest in its first number, than in any of its former numbers. May it proceed and prosper. I have the pleasure of enclosing you three dollars, my subscription to the Manual for one year. I have the honor to be, dear sir,

Your humble and ob't serv't,

C. D'FRENCH.

☞ The Rev. Mr. Ffrench will accept our thanks for the encouragement he extends to us; and we should be much pleased, if he can find leisure from his clerical duties, to have him become an occasional contributor to our pages. With the encouragement of such individuals as Mr. Ffrench, few, if any, will be inclined to favor the base and contemptible insinuation of C. W. Martin, (to which we refer on another page), that "the stain of infidelity is a sure passport to an agency," and that Dr. Thomson determines to have his system "in the hands of infidels."—J. c.

☞ We occasionally find something worth reading in the Boston Daily Herald; though from its "talented" "little editor," not much escapes but—"learned ignorance." Nothing that does not come from a college, will do for him.

The following is from the Herald.—J. c.

The writer of the following appears to doubt whether the regular diplomats or the Steam doctors will kill him first. If he goes the whole hog, in this business, we fear he will not live to find out which are the most expert murderers.

Dear R.,—I am *still* sick—and 'getting no better very fast'—therefore, in opposition to popular prejudice, I am going down to 'the slaughter-house'—for I cannot conceive how death can be *more* unwelcome in coming from the mouth of a steam-pipe, in the hands of a quack, than in charging one from the broad muzzled mouth of a mortar in the arms of a mathematical murderer, who deals out death in drachms. If they make 'a grave man' of me, it will be at least without the previously and gratuitously added agony of a rebellious wrangling in that region which should truly be termed the vitals—in an *alderman*. I mean the weaving and tying of a huge Gordian knot, which even death itself cannot untie, in a poor

wretch's stomach, by means of the 'dittos repeated,' and taken under the direction of *calculating calomelist's* prescriptions. When a suffering sinner's unspun fiddlestrings are in such a snarl—lashing each other like maddened vipers—what matters it, to the sufferer, that they have been thus gnarled and knotted by a *scientific snarler*? The man who could extract comfort from *that* fact, would find honey in a hornet. Of all the horrors I have in the world, the greatest is of dying like Vespasian—and *he must have taken a dose of calomel from some 'antique' M. D.* just before his demise, or he never would have encountered the king of Terrors in such a situation and in such horrid torture. Could his voice reach us from the tomb, it would be—I *know* it would be—'*Steam and Cayenne before Science and Calomel.*'

Truly thine, ———.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton.*

BOSTON, MARCH 15, 1837.

C. W. MARTIN.

In a communication in the Salem "Commercial Advertiser," of January 25th, C. W. Martin has disgorged himself of more than a column of verbiage and vituperation against Dr. Samuel Thomson. This ebullition of venom of the egotistical ex-Reverend, was occasioned by a notice of Dr. Thomson, that this said Martin "has no authority from" him "whatever, either to open a 'Thomsonian Infirmary,' or to sell 'Thomsonian Medicine,' and that his doing either, without" said Thomson's "consent, is a fraud practised on" him, "and an imposition on the public." These charges, in our opinion, he has not touched; but has tried to "hood-wink" the public, by slander and vilifying the character of Dr. Thomson. His malice, we think, has carried him altogether too far; and, in our estimation, his communication is so palpably contradictory, ridiculous and absurd, that its falsity must be perfectly apparent to every one who will take the trouble to read it; and the spirit and motives which develop themselves in every line, are not less plain. There is no wonder he writhes under the charges

of Dr. Thomson! Facts are "stubborn things," are they not, mister Martin?

We shall not waste time to reply in detail to the tirade of Martin; but there are one or two points to which we will advert, not because they are any more false than the rest, but because they "show up" Martin's inconsistency, unfairness and untruth, on a point in which the public are immediately interested. He says that Dr. Thomson revokes the agencies of all who will not buy their medicines of him, and give him, (after discounting 33 1-3 per cent.) \$2 for one pound of medicine, which may be obtained for 50 cents; and that on this account, [the voracious Martin here forgets to mention, that the family rights are put to agents at more than 50 per cent. discount, and other books at 10, 20, &c.] they "must be advertised, the public cautioned against them, their medicines called spurious, and they accused of trespass and 'Imposture.'" Martin says, also, that "the stain of infidelity is a sure passport" to an agency; and intimates—aye, not only intimates, but positively affirms, that he has "read a statement, purporting that" Dr. Thomson "acknowledged" his "intention to have" his "system in the hands of infidels."

In proof of the falsity of the last charge, we appeal to the list of authorised agents of Dr. Thomson, published on the covers of the Manual. In that list we doubt not will be found persons of almost all denominations, and we appeal to them all, to know, whether, when they took their agencies, one single syllable was breathed to them with respect to their religious sentiments? If it can be shown that Dr. Thomson *has* made it a *sine qua non*, that a person must incur the "stain of infidelity" as a sure "passport" to an agency, we will never again open our lips, or take up our pen in his defence. Let it be recollected, however, *that the testimony of persons of credibility and VERACITY*, of persons who have not

"Stolen the livery of the Court of Heaven
To play the devil in";

of persons whose moral character is *unimpeached and unimpeachable*, will be required.

But the charge is false, absolutely false. And this assertion is borne out by facts. Amongst Dr. Thomson's agents, are ministers of the gospel, and professors of almost every denomination; and is it to be presumed, that they would be induced to renounce what they consider their most inestimable privileges, for the sake

of an agency? Fie upon you, mister Martin; you know better; you 'mean not so, neither do you in your heart think so.' You meant to prejudice the public mind against Dr. Thomson, did n't you? and therefore appealed to their prejudices, and expressed your ineffable horror at every thing that you thought you could make them believe, savored of infidelity!

"Oh! what authority and show of truth,
Can cunning sin cover itself withal!"

If we had no stronger grounds, however, for our belief in revealed religion, than what has been furnished by the example and conduct of *some* renegade priests, in whom Dr. Thomson has reposed confidence, and by whom he has been defrauded, traduced, and condemned, we, too, should covet "the stain of infidelity," and commend him to place his "system in the hands of infidels."

Will mister Martin have the goodness to name to us the medicines for which Dr. Thomson demands \$2 a pound, and which can be purchased for 50 cents? We challenge him to do it! There are but few articles for which Dr. Thomson charges more than \$1 per pound, and many less; and he then discounts to agents 33 1-3 per cent. We are well aware that "spurious" articles can be sold, at a good profit, for one fourth the price that Dr. Thomson charges for genuine; and we are also well aware, that there are many "impostors," who keep "gull-traps" for the purpose of vending them as *genuine* "Thomsonian Medicine." We are also well aware, that such "impostors" are liable to an action for damages, *for each and every instance* in which they may do it. And we again caution the public against such imposition; as well might they be poisoned by the minerals of the established practice, as by the ground-up chips, rotten articles, dirt and rye-meal of "impostors," sailing under the flag of Thomsonism!

But, foolish Martin, if Dr. Thomson is such a depraved and avaricious tyrant, as you would fain make us believe; and if his system is so imperfect, that after upwards of fifty years successful practice, so insignificant an individual as yourself, is compelled to *improve* upon it; why, puissant sir, do you render yourself liable to "the stain of infidelity," in using his system of practice, and his NAME? Do not tell us it is for the sake of encouraging the system, that you *lend it your countenance*; for we assure you, in the outset, that we consider you a disgrace to

it, and, we had almost said, to any thing else! Why not open a Martinian Infirmary, sell Martinian medicine, give Martinian courses, and appoint Martinian agents? 'T would n't go down, would it, sir? No, no, dear sir, you cannot have your name handed down to posterity with that "halo of glory" which will encircle the venerable person's, whom you so foully traduce!

QUERY.—If infidelity is the opposite of fidelity, which is the infidel, the man who faithfully discharges his trust, or the one who proves himself recreant to his word, to honor, and to honesty?

QUERY AGAIN.—If Dr. Thomson condemns the use of physic, nitre, opium, the lancet, &c., and if C. W. Martin uses those articles, in connection with a part of Dr. Thomson's practice, and thereby injurious consequences, as a natural result, follow, is Dr. Thomson, or C. W. Martin in the fault?

AND AGAIN.—If C. W. Martin's success is so poor, that his friends are fast forsaking him and condemning his practice, is it right or just to blame Dr. Thomson or his system, when said C. W. Martin acknowledges that he introduces "IMPROVEMENTS" upon the Thomsonian system?

Enough for the present sitting. C. W. Martin *may, perhaps*, hear from us again.—J. C.

THE THOMSONIAN ASSOCIATION.

We attended the meeting of the above-named association, on Thursday evening, February 2d, at the Infirmary of Dr. Aaron Dow. Dr. Thomson was present, and took up the subject of the action of mineral, and other poisons, on the human system. He laid down two distinct propositions, and then went fully into an examination of them. We will endeavor to give a brief outline of his remarks.

His first proposition was, Why a sick man can take poison enough to kill ten well ones? and, secondly, Why a person can take much poison at one time, apparently without any serious injury, and which would kill him at another time?

Mercury, said the doctor, never acts—but is acted upon. And this remark holds good, in a greater or less degree, of every other poison. Hence, when the stomach is in a cold state, the poisons do not act, or operate, but pass off in a condensed or solid state, the same as when

first taken. But when the stomach is warm, and the vital functions active, the poison is at once thrown throughout the whole system, and will be liable to produce injury and even death. Dr. Thomson then stated, in illustration of this fact, several cases where (there was no doubt) poisons had been intentionally administered, in order to injure him, to persons under the operation of his medicine. Instant death followed; and the body assumed the same appearance as those known to have been poisoned.

He likewise adduced the cases of some persons, whose bodies he had seen after death, who had been attended by mineral doctors; which exhibited the same appearances. One case in particular, of a doctor who had heard of Thomson's wonderful cures by 'sweating.' He probably thought he could cure the same way. Being called to attend a sick person when in a hurry, he *sent* some medicine, (sulphate of antimony, i. e. sulphur and arsenic), with directions to get the patient into a 'sweat,' as soon as possible. The dose was administered, and the patient got into a perspiration, which distributed the poison throughout every part of the system, and caused it to operate as a cathartic. The patient was, in consequence, obliged to be exposed to the air, which instantly closed the pores, and produced a most horrible and painful death. So great was the obstruction; that respiration was almost totally impossible, and the patient died struggling for breath as badly as he would if he had had a rope round his neck. Had the patient been kept in a perspiration, and not been obliged to leave his bed, so as to be exposed to the cold air, the poison would all have escaped at the pores. The body swelled up, the eye-lids turned inside out, &c.; and every appearance was similar to that exhibited, where *it has been acknowledged that death had been caused by poison*. The doctor called about ten minutes before the man died, and said he died of—**SPOTTED FEVER!!** He told them it was fortunate he came as he did—that the disease was infectious—and that his coming would save the whole family from taking it!!! He said so much, that he absolutely frightened two of them into a fit of sickness!!!!

We are not going to explain the reason *now* why arsenic, &c. is poison, *even when used as medicine, and under disguised names*—but if the **FACULTY**, or their minions and votaries, wish

to know our reasons, we will give them—and give them, too, in the recorded opinions of the *best*, no, not the **BEST**—for there can be no **BEST** where there is no **GOOD**—but of the most **LEARNED** of their cabal!

When poison is taken into the stomach, and no perspiration takes place, or, rather, if there is not sufficient heat to render it active, it will pass off, in substance, by its own weight; consequently, a sick man, whose heat is much diminished; can take, without apparent injury, poison enough to kill "*ten well ones*," or ten whose vital powers are in an active state. And the same dose would destroy the sick man's life, at a time when the heat of his body had not been reduced by disease. Hence, it will be perceived, that the more active the vital principle of life is, when poison is taken, the greater will be the injury. Or, in other words, the poison will act only to destroy life; and the greater the life, the greater the action.

On the same principle, laudanum and opium may be taken, at certain times, without producing death; when the same quantities, taken at other times, would cause instantaneous death. The reason is, that in the former case, there was not heat enough in the stomach to distil the poison, and therefore it passed off in substance, without producing any effect.

Well would it be, if, when poison is taken, the stomach were always cold enough to have it pass off, without producing any effect. But this is not the case. If there is not heat enough in the system to cause its immediate operation, there is still enough to retain it in the system, or a sufficient portion of it, at least, to entail a disease, which will produce a lingering death. From this prolific source of evil, arise consumptions, "hereditary diseases," &c., and which are known only to those nations who have mineral doctors, and to those families, who have a "family doctor."

Some remarks were made, in the lecture recently delivered, which were relevant to this point. They were on the danger of using the common cayenne, which is poisoned with red arsenic. There is sufficient heat in the cayenne to render the arsenic active, and greater injury would necessarily result, than if the poison were taken separately.—J. C.

Physicians rarely take medicine—nor lawyers go to law—two hints not unworthy attention.

THE SMALL POX.

Business having been rather dull amongst the "regulars," for some time past, and it not being the season of the year for the *Asiatic!* SPASMODIC!! MALIGNANT!!! CHOLERA!!!! they have thought prudent to raise a "hue and cry" about the SMALL POX, in order to frighten as many as they can into it, and to get as much disease inoculated into the bodies of those who escape it, as they possibly can.

Now, readers, we shall come to the point at once, and will tell you that we Thomsonians consider small-pox, as well as fever, a friend to the human system; or, at least, not one of its worst enemies. We shall speak from facts, and of facts; and we shall, moreover, tell you of the regular practice in small-pox, (which is as bad in that as in every thing else, and they know about as much, or about as *little*, about it), and over their ignorance you may laugh, or you may cry, or you may — any thing else you please! But, as the last ought sometimes to be first, so we will speak of the first, after we have spoken of the *last*.

Dr. J. K. V. W. C. D. Smith, says, the Thomsonians are a set of *ignoramus*es! Now, we take it, this does not prove any thing about the cause or cure of small-pox, any more than it would prove that Dr. Smith has got too many initials to his name! Dr.! pardon us, if we have omitted any! Enough!

We have been told that Rainsford Island is full to overflowing — and that no more can be taken! Were we a candidate, we should consider this very lucky! To go down there, and be dressed in a linen shirt, and nankeen pantaloons, and be driven out of doors, "about these days," without we had a good supply of Nos. 2 and 6, would be very unpleasant to us — very unpleasant, indeed!

We know a female in this city, who had the small-pox when a child. Her hands were tied behind her body, and she was set under the pump, and pumped on, and was then put into a snow-bank, to remain, unless there was very great danger of freezing, for the day! At night, she was taken into the house, and put upon a bed without any covering, and with all the windows in the room wide open, in very cold weather! *What* a cure! But we shall not comment; yet we should n't like such *mal-treatment*; we are too fond of hot weather!

About the cases of small-pox, so called, in

many instances there is reason to doubt their genuineness. A young physician was recently attending a child, in this city, for the measles. An older one was called in, and pronounced the case small-pox. The other told him he knew nothing about it; and after bandying words awhile, it was agreed to leave it out to J. V. C. Smith, Esq., the *pox-doctor*! He decided the case was *not* small-pox; and he being Small-Pox Captain, from his decision there was no appeal!

Dr. Smith is now doing a pretty good business, as well as many others, in the same line, both in and out of Boston. They have sounded the "alarm," and hung "out the banner on the outer wall," and many "lily-livered" loons are daily running, as if they would break their necks, to pay their dollar, and be vaccinated! They know nothing of the injuriousness of this vaccinating practice; if they did, they would be a little offish. For our own part, we were never vaccinated, nor our children, and we would not have it done on any account whatever. Are we not sufficiently liable to disease, that we must have it inoculated into our system? It is but a few days since, that we heard of the death of an individual, who received a disease, by being vaccinated. There are but few amongst us, who have not some disease, or whose system is not tainted with mineral poisons; hence the danger of giving disease from one person to another. Precisely the same as with the bite of a rattle-snake, or a mad-dog!

On inoculating mineral poisons into the system, we will give a case in point. A physician in Milton attended a sick child. He attended it until it died. After death, he dissected the body, to ascertain what effect the medicines! [mineral poisons] had had. Whilst performing the operation, he accidentally cut his finger slightly, just sufficient to draw blood. By this little cut or scratch, sufficient of the poison he had given the child was inoculated into his arm, to cause it to swell to twice its natural size, and for months he was in danger of losing his arm and even his life. We are aware that the regulars will give the lie to facts of this description; that they will turn up their stately noses, and cry out "ignoramus!" and if by these means they can still deceive and "hood-wink" the public, so be it; we have sounded the "tocsin," and if they take not the alarm, the fault is their own.

On innoculating diseases into the system, we will give a case in point, which will answer for many. We refer to the case of the brother of John Locke, T. B. P. He was vaccinated, and for two years afterwards was in a declining state of health. He had been vaccinated from a person who had the scrofulous humor. At the end of about two years, he became very much broken out with cancers. It was judged he had a peck on him, and all turned inside out, so that they resembled bells. He died in the most horrible agony.

About a year since, (if we mistake not in the time), the small-pox prevailed in New-Jersey. The Thomsonians were prevented from practising, by a law of the state, making it a fine of twenty-five dollars for any one to sell or administer medicines, without a diploma! One of the diplomatists lost one case, and gave over another. The one given over, said he should send for a Thomsonian doctor. He was admonished not to do so. But thinking he might as well die under the hands of a botanic physician as a mineral quack, he sent for one, and was soon well. The botanic physician then had ten more cases similar, all of which were cured. So much for the Thomsonian practice in small-pox, which we could extend, were we so disposed. It was not thought prudent to put the heathenish law of New-Jersey into effect; fearing, questionless, that the voice of the people would be the loudest.

We have now to show, why we deem the small-pox a friend to the human system.

It is the greatest purifier of the body of any thing known. When a person is attacked by it, every humor and seed of disease unites with it, and with it passes off, leaving the system entirely free from the least taint of disease, unless mineral poisons be resorted to in its cure. If properly treated, on the Thomsonian plan, it can be speedily and effectually cured, even in the most desperate cases—in those given over by the faculty. It is the highest state of putrefaction the body is capable of receiving, and so pre-eminent is the Thomsonian practice in its cure, that it removes it speedily, and “leaves not a wreck behind,”—no, not even a “pitted” body!

Of the action of the disease as a purifier, we will state a case, recently related to us by Dr. Thomson. It occurred, if we mistake not, in Surry, N. H. It was the case of a man who

had been for years afflicted with consumption; he had been attended, and was given over, by two physicians. Having heard of the purifying effects of small-pox, he begged to be innoculated with it. His physicians refused to do it, because they feared it would hasten his death. The man, however, satisfied he could not live long, and preferring immediate death, with a chance of cure, to protracted misery, and a lingering death, prevailed upon one of his friends to inoculate him. He had the disease; and although for a time his sufferings were great, yet when the small-pox left him, it carried off every vestige of consumption, and the man soon regained perfect health.

Although we should not fear small-pox in the least, if we were to be treated with the Thomsonian practice; yet, on the other hand, were we to be treated with the “established practice,” we should be most *awful shy* of it!—because we should fear the *remedy* more than the *disease*.—J. C.

HOSEA WINCHESTER AGAIN.

Since the late suit of Dr. Samuel Thomson against Hosea Winchester, before the Supreme Court, (which case has been carried up as a law question,) said Winchester has written a very insulting and saucy letter to Dr. Thomson, requesting him to call and pay damages, and have the matter settled: he not being satisfied with monopolizing for himself and the Shaker society all the profits of Dr. Thomson’s discoveries, for twenty years, in which they have made a fortune, but now threatens to commit greater outrages, in preparing and selling medicine, and Howard’s spurious books; and says he will extend them to the utmost of his abilities.

As regards his medicines, he has had our assistance heretofore, and shall have it again, in showing its cheap and cheat qualities to the public; and as it respects Horton Howard’s three books, they were tried by a Committee appointed by the Convention at Columbus, Ohio, in 1832, to examine all pretensions to Improvements on Dr. Thomson’s system. The books brought forward for trial, were those of E. Smith, Miles, Rogers, and Baker, and the three of Horton Howard. After a thorough examination, the Committee reported that all the pretended Improvements were spurious and counterfeit, and disgraceful to the authors, and especially that of Howard. Poor Winchester!

you seem always to be so unfortunate as to choose the worst horn of a dilemma! The report of the Committee was read and accepted by a unanimous vote of the Convention.

The above is a brief account of the estimation in which the book is held, where it is best known, which our *honest* Shaker is determined to "extend" "to the extent of" his "abilities." We understand that this honest Shaker has made a contract to supply certain persons in Columbus, Ohio, with fifteen hundred pounds of cayenne, and take his pay in Howard's books. Bravo! One spurious article in exchange for another! 'T will be a difficult matter to foretell who will be the greatest loser! One thing appears pretty certain to us, however, which is, that spurious books will not go much better, in this part of the country, than spurious medicine; so that, which way he may fix it, the Shaker's speculation will be no great *shakes*.

The following is Mr. Winchester's letter, to which we have above alluded:—

Boston, Jan. 23d, 1837.

DR. S. THOMSON—Sir:

The measures you are taking towards me, are very much unlike a gentleman. If I have dealt unfairly with you, come like a man of honor, and see me, or appoint a place, and I will meet it, and settle the controversy. If you want me to discontinue business in the city, and are willing to do the thing that is right, I am ready to make arrangements with you, if done soon. Dr. S. C. Hewett, of this city, has offered me any amount of money I want, to enable me to go extensively into trade of medicine, as I prepare many articles which he is in the habit of using, and under many encouragements from different sources, I am calculating to open a shop somewhere in the eastern part of the city, in the spring. If you are ready to remunerate me for the injuries I have already sustained through your treatment, I will compromise business to your advantage. Otherwise I shall extend the trade of medicine, and Howard's books, to the extent of my abilities.

Respectfully, HOSEA WINCHESTER.

Why, Mr. Winchester, thou art certainly beside thyself!—stark staring mad!! "Remunerate" you, "for the injuries" you have "received through" Dr. Thomson's "treatment"! You do but jest, sir! Or do you really forget—are you, in truth, ignorant that you are the aggressor, and the debtor? But, are you in earnest, when you say that you are willing to "compromise business to" Dr. Thomson's "advantage"? That offer is, to us, something of a problem; and we can explain it only in this

way: You find that you are doing a bad business—that your opposition to Dr. Thomson will prove your ruin—and now think to induce him to hire you to "sin no more." Dr. Thomson need not trouble himself about "compromising" with you; the public whom you have abused, by palming yourself off upon them as Dr. Thomson, and your Shaker medicine as Thomsonian, will award you your just deserts.

Will Mr. Winchester have the goodness to inform the public, through the columns of the Manual, of what ingredients Howard's "Black Drops" are composed?—whether they are or are not composed of opium, nitre, &c. &c.?

In conclusion, we will give a few extracts from a poem of Dr. Thomson, which, in giving an account of the proceedings of the Convention of 1832, adverts to the spurious books which were tried and condemned.—J. C.

Smith's book, for trial first appears,
But has been sinking many years;
Has been before us and been tried,
Condemned in full and set aside.

Miles and Rogers, they come next,
Each have IMPROVEMENT for their TEXT;
This is the gold with which they gild,
And thus conceal their want of skill.

In their contrivances so arch,
Did they attempt to steal a march;
But their improvements, like the first,
Have tumbled to their native dust.

Now comes the great inflated book,
Which drowns the eye at every look;
O'erwhelms all nature with surprise,
Like John's great beast, with seven eyes.

What is there in this book we find?
Try all the powers of earth and time,
To ope' the book and loose the seals,
And find the light that it reveals.

This much we learn with deep surprise,
That it abounds with foolish lies;
Culled from the books already tried,
And several other books beside.

Nothing original or new
Is here presented to our view,
But mandrakes, opium, drops, and stuff,
Gunpowder plasters—cancer puff.

The cause of truth will still go on,
In spite of all this book has done;
In vain the dupe of Howard tries,
To use his hundred remedies.

* * * * *

But when we gaze at Howard's book,
Imposture meets us at a look;
Deception glares upon its face,
So we dismiss it in disgrace.

Send your son into the world with good principles, and a good education, and he will find his way in the dark.

✍ The following communication was received after our article, headed "The Thomsonian Association," was in type. It is on the same subject, and is well worthy an attentive perusal.—J. C.

MESSRS. EDITORS, — GENTLEMEN:

The following information, which was elicited at the last meeting of the "*Thomsonian Association*," will undoubtedly be interesting to many of your readers.

Dr. Samuel Thomson being present at the meeting, stated to the Association the reason why Poison, administered to the *sick*, under the name of medicine, would not produce the disastrous effects which it does when taken by the *well man*, was a subject that ought to be understood by every one.

To give information on this point, he stated that the sick man's intestines were in a cold state, and covered with canker, which completely choked the whole system with cold phlegm, and prevented a free circulation of the blood. Poison, says our informant, has no action of itself, but is acted upon by heat, which it requires to make it expand and circulate; the absence of heat from the internal part of the system, and the canker, keeps the poison from being taken up by the absorbents, and prevents its circulation in the blood vessels, which are choked with phlegm; otherwise it would affect the whole man. The canker also prevents the poison from coming in contact with the stomach and bowels. It is carried through the body with the cold phlegm, with which it passes off without producing death. Although the injury sustained by the stomach may be very great, yet he may recover, and the report will be that he has had a very dangerous disease, and narrowly escaped death, and the poison doctor gets the credit of a great cure!!! But be it understood, his situation would not have been so perilous, were it not for the Arsenic, Laudanum, Nitre, Mercury, &c. &c. which had been erroneously imposed upon him under the name of medicines.

To illustrate the foregoing statements Dr. Thomson related the case of Mr. M., who was attended by an M. D. of W., N. H., who prescribed Golden Sulphur of Antimony, i. e. two poisons, Sulphur and Antimony, with directions to get him in a perspiration as soon as possible. His instructions were obeyed, and as soon as the patient was in a perspiration, heat caused the poison to operate as physic; he was immediately taken out of bed, and placed on a stool. His being taken from bed, and exposed to the air, in this state, the cold caused the poison to condense on the surface of the body; the patient swelled so much as to increase at least one third in size, turned black, and almost instant death ensued. If the patient had been left in bed, the presumption is, that the poison would have passed off by stool and perspiration, and the patient probably have recovered, if the dose was not repeated.

Again, to illustrate the same subject, I will make the following proposition: I will suppose there is a bad sore on one arm, which is full of dead flesh, or pus. I will remove the scab, and put some arsenic on the pus; from the other arm, which is well, I will remove a piece of the skin the size of the scab I have taken from the sore; in this place, i. e. the well flesh, I will put the same quantity of poison I have put into the other. The poison being put where the circulation is free, will, I conceive, be more absorbed, and consequently cause a more troublesome, dangerous and painful sore. M. R. P.

Boston, Feb, 8th, 1837.

We perceive with regret, in the public papers, notices that Dr. A. C. Draper, editor of the *Botanic Sentinel*, is publicly discussing the merits and demerits of Thomsonism with Dr. Sleigh, the itinerant lecturer against infidelity—a man who stands publicly charged with falsehood, swindling, &c. Dr. Sleigh is against, and Dr. Draper for the System. We are sorry Dr. Draper is wasting his time and talents in a discussion with this man; no good can possibly come of it, even if Sleigh is beaten! The circumstances which militate against Sleigh's character are so well known in Philadelphia, and elsewhere, that we fear this discussion will be a reproach to the cause of Thomsonism—we fear that our enemies will say, You can get no respectable individual to hold a debate with, and you are compelled to take up with the foulest mass of corruption that pollutes the name of MAN! Better to have no discussions, than such as these!—J. C.

DR. BARTLETT.—The editor of the *Botanic Sentinel* says, "It appears that the above-named gentleman, who is a regular physician, and a resident of Boston, has committed the unpardonable sin of giving countenance to the Thomsonian System." Indeed! We were not aware of the fact!! Will the editor of the *Sentinel* inform us from what this "appears"? Did we make it so "appear," in our remarks on the treatment which Dr. Bartlett had received from the Massachusetts and Boston Medical Societies? If we did, we will now make it "appear" that the treatment he received, was on account of his "giving countenance to" one Dr. Williams, oculist, who was no more a Thomsonian than he was—a useful physician!—J. C.

Thy secret is thy prisoner; let it escape thee, and thou wilt be the prisoner of thy secret.

☞ We invite the attention of our readers to the communication of "Silentio," on pages 66 and 67 of the present number of the Manual. He treats of the pernicious consequences which result from the use of saltpetre or nitre. Too often have we witnessed the deleterious effects of this poisonous salt, in the sore gums, scurvy, loss of the use of limbs, &c., with which seafaring men are so generally afflicted. It is but recently, that we heard a statement from a gentleman who had visited the Sandwich Islands, that those on board the ship were so much afflicted in this way, that it was found necessary to carry them ashore, and bury them in the earth, (with the exception of the head,) before the voyage could be completed. And of another individual, whose limbs were rendered entirely useless, and who was laid up with sickness for three months, from the same cause. Let all who prize health, avoid the use of saltpetre, in every form, whether used in the curing of meat, or as MEDICINE. — J. C.

☞ As the publishers of the "Botanic Sentinel" had the politeness to insert the prospectus of the Manual, we reciprocate the favor, by the insertion of theirs. It has been on hand some time, and the delay in its insertion was occasioned by its being accidentally mislaid. The Sentinel usually contains considerable interesting miscellaneous matter, and much that is useful; but we frequently see in its columns doctrines advocated, which we must consider anti-Thomsonian, to say the least. For example, in the January number, the use of "mandrake" is recommended, in connection with bitter-root and butternut. Now Dr. Thomson considers "mandrake" as poisonous, and from his long experience, and extensive botanical knowledge, we cannot presume to doubt the correctness of his judgment. He likewise disapproves, in toto, the use of physic; preferring to restore the system to a state capable of performing its ordinary operations, to giving physic, which naturally tends to weaken, rendering a constant repetition of it necessary. In the same number of the Sentinel, amputation of the thumb is recommended in a case of hydrophobia, upon which the editor is commenting. Will amputation of a thumb remove a virus in the blood? Cauterizing, and alkaline solution, as a wash, were also recommended in the case. This is hardly Thomsonian practice! And, if

we mistake not, the editor, in an article published a few months since, recommends bleeding in *certain cases*! We say again, this is anti-Thomsonian. — J. C.

PROPOSALS,

BY JOHN COATES, JR.

For the Publication of the Second Volume of the
BOTANIC SENTINEL
And *Literary Gazette*.

A. C. DRAPER, M. D., EDITOR.

One year will have elapsed on the 17th inst. since the Botanic Sentinel has been in existence, and the publisher feels it a duty to express to his friends, his warm and sincere thanks for the interest and zeal which they have manifested in circulating the paper. The publisher has met with many discouragements; the treachery of pretended friends, and the undisguised hostility of open foes, it appeared at one time, would have been successful in crushing the Sentinel; but the cause of truth has prevailed, and the paper is now established upon a basis which defies the malignity of all its enemies.

It has now a wide and extended circulation, which is every day increasing, and it is extremely gratifying to the publisher to announce that the sheets of the second year will be larger in size, and otherways improved. The "Sentinel," as heretofore, will be devoted to the dissemination of useful medical knowledge, at the same time the lighter and more agreeable parts of literature will not be neglected.

Diseases will be accurately described; their causes will be explained, and the proper means of cure will be detailed.

Medical and other works will be critically examined, and an honest opinion of their merits, will be given.

Cases of interest will from time to time be narrated, and every important circumstance connected with them will be exhibited.

The paper will be rendered more interesting than any other of the kind in the Union, by the correspondence of the editor, who in his travels through the country, will visit the Hospitals and Infirmeries of the different cities, and describe the modes of treatment pursued in them, together with such other matters as he thinks will be acceptable to the readers of the "Sentinel."

In addition to the foregoing, there will be in almost every number of the paper, a short account of the most celebrated women in the world, or those who have distinguished themselves by noble and praiseworthy deeds. For this department the editor has been for some time engaged in collecting materials. Poetry will also claim some portion of attention.

Domestic and foreign intelligence will be attended to, and it will be seen from the above prospectus, that it is designed to combine the USEFUL with the AGREEABLE in the conducting of the paper.


In a word, no efforts or expense will be spared, to render the "*Botanic Sentinel and Literary Gazette*," an interesting and an entertaining FAMILY JOURNAL, which may be read by all classes with profit and pleasure.

TERMS: \$2 per annum in advance, \$2 50 if not paid within six months, and \$3 if not paid be-

fore the expiration of the year. No subscription received for a less term than one year.

Published every Wednesday, at No. 80 South Street, Philadelphia.

August 10, 1836.

 We cut the following from an exchange paper; no credit is given for it, and we know not in what paper it first originated. One thing we do know, however, that any person who would take it must be afflicted with that most prevalent and most fatal disease upon the brain—*ignorance*. Of this disease, there are two species, which may be denominated under the heads of *learned* and *unlearned*. The latter is the only disease of the brain which Thomsonians are compelled to set down as incurable; all others yield readily, *when properly treated*.

CURE OF HYDROPHOBIA:—A premium of two thousand dollars has been awarded by the legislature of New York, to Dr. JOHN M. CROUS, for a prescription which cures the hydrophobia—and which the discoverer testifies on oath has never failed in the course of twenty years' practice. The following is the remedy. Should it prove successful, the inventor will rank with JENNER, and other noble benefactors of their race.

1stly. Take one ounce of the jawbone of a dog, burned and pulverized, or pounded to fine dust.

2ndly. Take the false tongue of a newly foaled colt; let that be also dried and pulverized, &c.

3dly. Take one scruple of the verdigrese which is raised on the surface of old copper by laying in moist earth, (the copper of George I. or II. are the purest and best.) Mix these ingredients together, and if the patient be an adult, or full grown, take one common tea-spoonful a day; and so in proportion for a child, according to its age. In one hour after, take the filings of the one half of a copper of the above kind, if to be had, if not, then a small increased quantity of any baser metal of the kind; this to be taken in a small quantity of water. The next morning fasting, (or before eating) repeat the same as before. This, if complied with after the biting of the dog, and before symptoms of madness, will effectually prevent any appearance of the disorder; but if after the symptoms shall appear, a physician must immediately be applied to, to administer the following, viz: Three drachms of the verdigrese, of the kind before mentioned, with half an ounce of calomel, to be taken at one dose. This quantity the physicians need not fear to administer, as the reaction of the venom then diffused through the system of the patient, neutralizes considerably the powerful quality of the medicine. And, secondly, if in four hours thereafter the patient is not completely relieved, administer four grains of pure opium, or one hundred and twenty drops of liquid laudanum.

N.B. The patient must be careful to avoid the use of milk for several days after taking any of the foregoing medicine.

The above prescription is about on a par with one for worms, which may be found in the second volume of the third American edition of the works of the celebrated Dr. Darwin, and is as follows:—

M.M. The round worm is destroyed by a cathartic with four or six grains of calomel; and afterwards by giving six or eight grains of filings of iron for a fortnight. As worms are liable to come away in fevers, whether of the hectic or putrid kind, could they be removed by purulent matter, or rotten egg, or putrid flesh, since in those fevers from the enfeebled action of the intestines, the feces become highly putrid.

The sharp spiculæ or hairs, which are found on the pods of cowhage; *struolobium siliqua hirsuta*, have been recommended in worm cases, and said to destroy them by mechanical puncture; the late Mr. Power, of Polesworth, assured me, he had had great success with this medicine, and gave about six or eight grains in a bolus three or four times on one day, with a brisk cathartic on the next day. Some have recommended chopped hair or bristles for this purpose. There are numerous sharp spiculæ in the fruit of the wild rose, which might be worth trying in this disease, and the hairs on full grown hairy caterpillars, if the animal be laid on the hand, especially between the fingers, are liable to stick in the skin, and to produce slight inflammation and itching, and might also be worth trying in worm-cases. But it is asserted in M. Vaillant's Travels in Africa, that when these insects feed on poisonous plants, they become themselves so venomous, that the natives collect a juice from them, with which when putrid they smear their war-weapons to poison them.

From the above *delicate* prescriptions, the public may learn how outrageously they are imposed upon, by the secret remedies of the *learned faculty*. We forbear commenting; but assure our readers that we shall, from time to time, let them further into a knowledge of *fashionable remedies*!—J. C.

THE DISCUSSION between Dr. Draper and Dr. Sleight, as we learn from the Philadelphia Democratic Herald, closed on Thursday evening, February 9th, by the violation on the part of Sleight, of the rules and regulations; which caused Dr. Draper to decline further controversy with an opponent; whose deportment and manner forbid all hope of an uninterrupted discussion, or a fair and candid hearing on the part of the Thomsonians. This is as we had

anticipated; and although we are satisfied that Dr. Draper's talents are of such a sterling character as, in a fair and honorable discussion, would bring honor to the cause of Thomsonism; yet, with such an opponent as Sleigh, his time and talents will be thrown away. We hope, however, this affair will be the means of provoking some one into the lists, who in point of moral character, fair and honorable deportment, and ability, will be an equal match for Dr. Draper. We shall have no fears of the result, for

"Thrice is he arm'd, whose cause is just."

And in such a discussion, the quackery of science will be compelled to hang her head, and the fair, blooming bright eyed Maid of Truth and Nature, will smile her conscious victory, while rays of glory circle round her brows. The banner of Thomsonism will wave in triumph over the Diploma quacks; and the multitude, with one acclaim, will shout the victory of "*Humanity over experiment—fact over theory—and Nature over the presumption of man*," when he ventures to surpass, what his greatest achievement never can equal." We shall give in our next, the account of the close of the discussion, from the Democratic Herald, unless a more full account comes to hand from some other source.—J. c.

DR. MAGOON OR DR. THOMSON AGAIN.

As the Gull-Trap sign is yet kept up at No. 554, Washington-street, for the purpose of deceiving and gulling the people, which reads thus: "*Thomsonian Botanic Infirmary*," be it known, that this house is kept by a man, who, it is said, wears two faces; (viz.) Dr. *Thomson's* and Dr. *Magoon's*. So he can show either, as occasion may require, as was the case with Mr. Coombs, to whom he showed both. This hoax reminds us of the anecdote of a gentleman, who sent, as a present to his priest, a fine live pig, by the hand of his servant. The servant, on his way, called at the ale-house for a drink of beer. Whilst absent, some rogues took out of the basket the pig, and put in a puppy, and covered it again. The servant took up his basket, and proceeded on his way. Upon arriving at the house, he informed the priest of the fine live pig his master had sent him; but, on opening the basket, he found, to his great mortification, that the pig had turned to a puppy! The servant declared that, when he came from home, it was a fine pig; but since it had turned to a puppy, he would carry it back again. On his way back, he again stopped at the ale-house, to

renew his drink of beer, and whilst within, the same rogues took out the puppy, and put in the pig! When the servant arrived home, he informed his master that the pig he sent to the priest had turned to a puppy, and he had brought it back; when, lo! upon opening the basket, he found the same pig that he had carried away! The servant, in his surprise, declared, that he could be a pig or a puppy, just as he pleased! So in the above case, he can be Dr. *Thomson*, or Dr. *Magoon*, just as best suits his convenience!! O; hypocrite! hypocrite!

CURE FOR COUGH.—Dr. P——, of S——, has discovered a new cure for cough, which, doubtless, must prove infallible. It is to clip off a part of the palate!! *What is quackery?* Will the learned doctor explain to us the philosophy of this operation? We are at a loss!—J. c.

Dr. I. ANTHONY, formerly of Mendon, Mass., and now of Henrietta, N. Y., is a duly authorised Agent of Dr. Samuel Thomson. Justin Gates, of Rochester, N. Y., is not, and never has been; having no authority from Dr. Thomson whatever.—J. c.

There was an unfortunate error escaped in the date of the two last numbers of the Manual. We had forgotten, when the year commenced to alter—not the "figure-head"—but the figures in the heads; therefore they stand 1836, instead of 1837.—J. c.

It will be perceived, by a reference to the list of Dr. Thomson's Agents, that the name of George Howe, Marlboro', Ms., has been withdrawn.—J. c.

We have received a very interesting communication from Dr. Patten, of Lynn, which we shall give to our readers in the next number of the Manual.—J. c.

The continuation of the account of the lectures on Thomsonism, we are compelled, by press of other matter, to defer till our next.—J. c.

We have "a rod in pickle" for one J. A. Brown, of Providence, R. I.—but the more important things first.—J. c.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I wish to have it known, that I have no General Agent in New-England, besides ABNER KNEELAND. The addition of the name of J. Q. Adams, was without my consent.

All persons indebted for Books, Medicines, &c., are requested to make payment to the undersigned, or to ABNER KNEELAND; and to no one else.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, February, 1837.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, MAY 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 7.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*, by GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, *Printer and Publisher.*

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR:
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

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Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston:

[Original.]

CASE OF COL. THADDEUS PAGE:

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 96.]

I now come to the last sickness, and the death of Col. Thaddeus Page. About 11 o'clock, A. M., on Thursday, Jan. 26th, Col. Page sent for me to attend him through the operation of a Thomsonian emetic. Being at that time engaged with another patient in the Infirmary, I did not visit the Col. until 2 o'clock, P. M. When I arrived at his house, I found him in bed, and very sick; and laboring under an universal tremor, so severe that he could not hold a cup to his mouth to drink, without spilling the contents. Mrs. Page informed me, that he had been confined to his room, and almost exclusively to his bed, about a week; that he had taken considerable medicine of his own prescribing, but that he received no *sensible* benefit therefrom; and the Col. added, that he wished me to give him such medicines as I thought proper in his case, and stay with him and attend him through the operation of the same. On examination, I found him in a very cold, nervous state, followed with alternate hectic or fever fits, and Mrs. Page told me that he had taken very little nourishment for six or seven days. I soon commenced, by giving him Composition, Nerve Powder, and Pennyroyal tea; and afterwards gave him several injections, which brought away considerable green, putrid matter from his bowels, (which were much swollen, and very hard.) We afterwards got him into bed, applied a hot stone to his feet, got him into a free perspiration, and I gave him an emetic, which, in about an hour, operated twice very freely; and what he raised was of a greenish color, and emitted a very offensive smell. In an hour or so, he began to grow more uneasy—appeared to be in considerable pain, and at about 5 o'clock, began to be delirious; and by 8 o'clock, was quite crazy, so much so, that

he did not know one person from another. He remained in this situation during the night. I frequently gave him Composition, Nerve Powder, Pennyroyal tea, Cayenne, and gruel, (as he would not drink milk porridge,) and renewed the hot stone at his feet frequently, and occasionally gave him an injection during the night; but he did not vomit during the night. Mrs. Page sat up till about 11 o'clock, and then retired till 2 o'clock.

About 8 o'clock, A. M. of the 27th, (Friday,) he again vomited profusely, and threw up a large quantity of very offensive matter, of a very green color, and continued to vomit at short intervals for several hours, each time throwing up the same kind of matter. After he began to vomit, his nerves became more composed, and his reason began, gradually, to return; so that he knew all his friends who came into the room; and would ask and answer many questions, in a rational manner; but *still* he was wandering; he appeared, however, on the whole, to be better. About 11 o'clock, we got him up to make his bed; he exerted himself much, and appeared to faint, (which, for the first time, appeared to frighten Mrs. Page;) but immediately revived, on being laid upon the bed. A lady, a friend of the family, whose name I do not now recollect, was present, and assisted in getting him up; &c. In the course of the forenoon, I gave him several injections; the last of which, in addition to the before described green, putrid matter, brought away a small quantity of *excrement*. In the course of the previous evening, Mrs. Page informed me, that her husband had some three or four different kinds of physic in him, at the time that I commenced giving him medicine; he having had but one slight operation, after taking the physic.

I would here state, that at about 9 o'clock, a barber was sent for, who came and shaved him. At about 11 o'clock, as he appeared to be somewhat more comfortable, I left him, and returned again at 2 o'clock, P. M. When I returned, he knew me, and spoke to me. I inquired of Mrs. Page, how he had been since I left? She replied, "He is certainly no worse." He continued to vomit occasionally, and in addition to the putrid matter before described, he threw up large *junks*, (if I may so speak,) of phlegm, (or *pus*), which was condensed very hard; and from the time that he began to raise *this* matter, he became hoarse. I told Mrs. Page, that with strict perseverance, and judicious attention, I thought we should save him. I proposed giving him more injections, to which Mrs. Page readily gave her assent. I then mixed some

medicine for that purpose, and Mrs. Page put it to the fire to steep.

While we were waiting for the medicine to steep, a gentleman, an acquaintance and friend of the Col., called to see him. He was introduced to me as a Mr. Butler. He treated me with civility, and endeavored to make himself useful, in assisting to wait upon the Col. Soon after, another gentleman called, who was introduced to me as a Mr. Carpenter. He immediately began to find fault with what I had done, wanted to know why I had given Lobelia, and other hot stuff? and, in short, produced a revolution in the state of affairs, in a very short time. I frankly told Mr. Carpenter what I had done for the Col., and explained to him, in short, my views of the nature of the case, and the probable results of my mode of procedure. I told him that, although the Col. was then very sick, I thought much more favorably of his case than I did a few hours previous—that I had not got through with my operation—and if I could be permitted to proceed, unmolested, I *thought* that he, (the Col.) would recover. He, however, paid no attention to what I said, other than to *grumble*; took Mrs. Page out of the room, and in a few minutes returned, and requested me to go out with him, which I did. He told me that he was going to call Dr. Ware. I signified my willingness that he might “go-ahead,” notwithstanding the Col. had voluntarily called me, and committed his case to my charge, which he had a perfect right to do. I returned to the room, and he went to call Dr. Ware.

Up to the time that Mr. Carpenter came, Mrs. Page *appeared* to be perfectly satisfied with my treatment, and cheerfully assisted me, all in her power; and, (to her praise I say it,) she continued to treat me with kindness and respect, while I continued in the house, and when I left.

After Mr. Carpenter had gone for Dr. Ware, I told Mrs. Page, as another physician had been sent for, I, of course, had nothing more to do. (By the way, Mrs. Page had said nothing to me, or in my hearing, about another physician, Mr. Carpenter having taken that business solely upon himself.) I observed, that I should stop until Dr. Ware came; to which no objection was made, and I accordingly stayed. While Mr. Carpenter was gone for the doctor, we got the Col. up, and exchanged his linen; when, owing to his weakness, and the exertion which he made in getting up in the bed, he again appeared to faint, but soon revived, on being laid down. He was very weak, and well he might be, after having *fasted* for a week, with three or four different kinds of physic, and other drugs in him at one and the same time, when I commenced giving him Thomsonian medicine!

It is well known to every Thomsonian practitioner, that in an old chronic disease, where the system has been, and is, *crammed* with deleterious drugs, as was the case with Col. Page, the Thomsonian medicine, when given in such cases, has a double duty to perform—that of *routing* the disease, and also of rousing from

their dormant state, the deadly drugs with which the system is *crammed*—and in such cases, the operation of a Thomsonian course is generally severe; but seldom or never fatal, unless the vital spark is so nearly extinct, that the medicine cannot act. But, in the case of Col. Page, it did act; although, owing to the cold and morbid state of the system, it required considerable time in which to act. And I do verily believe, that had there been no “intermeddling stranger,” or officious acquaintance “near,” to interrupt my progress, the Col., although very sick, might have recovered.

At about 4 o'clock, P. M., as near as I can recollect, Mr. Carpenter returned, accompanied by Dr. Ware. The doctor came in and spoke to the Col., who knew and answered him. After having examined his patient, he sat down near where I was sitting, (he having previously been introduced to me, by Mrs. Page,) and asked me several questions about the Col., which I honestly answered, and frankly told him what I had done, what my views of the case were, and what I intended to have done still further, had I continued in charge of the case. I told him that I knew the case was a critical one, and that it required judicious and persevering attention, but that I had not, however, despaired of the Col.'s recovery. I told him that I had intended to continue the administration of injections, with a view to remove the obstruction in the bowels, allay the inflammation, cause a united action between the stomach and bowels, and equalize the excitement—which, if I could effect, I should save the patient. Dr. Ware then turned to Mrs. Page, and inquired—“what am I to do?—what am I sent for?—do you wish me to take charge of the case?” Mrs. Page replied—“Dr. Fowler was sent for, at my husband's request, and I am satisfied with what he has done; but as my husband still is very sick, and as you, (Dr. Ware,) have been his family physician, and consequently are acquainted with his constitution and disease, *we* thought *we* would send for you, to take charge of the case. Dr. Ware made no particular remarks, (at least in my hearing,) about the hardness, or *danger* of the case, but wrote his *recipe*, which, he said, ordered a liquid, of about six ounces, which he ordered to be given in table-spoonful doses, to be repeated once in fifteen minutes, until it operated as physic. He likewise ordered an infusion of hops, to be applied, warm, to the bowels. He then left, and Mr. Carpenter took the recipe, and went to obtain the medicine. I left immediately after, and Mrs. Page followed me down stairs, to the door, and renewed her statement, that she was satisfied with my treatment, and earnestly requested me not to feel or exercise any hardness toward her, for sending for Dr. Ware. I thanked her for her kindness and assistance—told her that I entertained no hardness against *her*—bid her good-day, and left.

How *careful* or how *honest* Dr. Ware was, in his prescriptions, I cannot say; but one thing

is certain, which is, that Col. Page *died* the following night after he, (Dr. W.) took charge of the case. For the present, I have done; but, should any person or persons, who are worth noticing, continue to circulate falsehoods, in relation to the above case, he or they shall again hear from

STEPHEN F. FOWLER.

Boston, February 16, 1837.

[Original.]

DR. PATTEN'S REPORTS OF CASES.

[Continued from our last.]

Fevers, of almost every description, have come under my care, in all of which I have been successful; such as bilious, rheumatic, lung, typhus, scarlet, slow, fast, and several crack-jaw fevers, too numerous to be particularized.

One case of rheumatic fever, I was called in haste to attend, the parents being alarmed that the patient was dying, she having been under the care of the regulars. She was cured by two courses. The morning following the night on which I had given the first course, the regular, when he called, was very angry, and wished to know why his advice was not called for, before sending for me; but I should have thought the fact of my being sent for *without* his advice, would have been sufficient to convince him that the family had but little confidence in his skill, without his wishing to hear the acknowledgment from their lips.

One case I was called to of a woman, whose husband thought she had got a fever. When I arrived, he asked me if I thought she had a fever? I told him no; I did not think she had half fever enough! This he thought was rather a curious expression for a doctor; however, he did not object to my undertaking to create a little more fever, and with one course, and restoratives, she was relieved.

One case of slow and nervous fever, I cured by three courses, after the patient had been attended for three weeks by the regulars, and been bled, &c., to no effect—or rather to bad effect. This person had also been violently opposed to the system, but will never employ a regular again. The reason why my success, and that of all others, who practice strictly according to the system, and use genuine medicines, is so much greater than that of the regulars, is because we treat it as a friend, as it most truly is, and a *best friend*. The faculty treat it as an enemy, forgetting the opinion of the learned Hippocrates, that it is the efforts of nature, striving to throw off disease, and should, consequently, be aided in its efforts. But, by treating it as an enemy, they fight the remaining spark of life, and can only succeed in putting it out, by sending their patient to that "bourne, from whence no traveller returns." Who ever heard of a person having a fever, without first having some disease—most likely a cold—lurking about their system previously. Nothing is thought of the

cold; but the fever! oh, dear, when that comes, the patient is at once alarmed, and cannot be content until he has sent for his doctor, who will try, as fast as possible, to put out the remaining spark of fire or life. As consistent would it be, for a housekeeper, in case a window in the room should be accidentally broken, to go immediately to work and throw snow and ice into the fire-place, instead of putting on more fuel, until the broken pane could be replaced. It is a pity that the truth of this axiom, that "fever is a friend," is not more generally known, as it would save much pain and suffering, lingering diseases, broken down constitutions, fever sores, or mercury sores, besides immense expense, anxiety, and all the other evils, which follow in the train of a mineral doctor.

Let us come next to Consumption—that *incurable*, as the faculty call it! I had one case, that had been attended for some time by one of our oldest regulars, who gave the patient over, and said he had a seated consumption, and medicine could not cure him; and, in addition, that he could not live more than four months. These observations he made to the man's brother, the day on which I was giving him a course of medicine. One course sufficed to complete the cure, and the man is now living to testify to the fact. This case, although given over by the very learned doctor, as a case of seated consumption, and incurable, I did not consider as consumption. Therefore, either the learned doctor or myself must have been mistaken; and which of us was, I think the result has satisfactorily shown. These blunders of the regulars are so alarmingly frequent, that it is a pity the people will not wake up to the subject, see the ignorance which is hurrying them blindfold to the grave, and filling the system with poisons, which produce more sickness and injury than all other causes. I have had a number of other cases of what is generally termed consumption, which have been cured, or so far relieved, as to render life comfortable. Consumption, in its first stages, always yields readily to the medicine; but after a person has been run down by the regulars, until he is half consumed, it is hardly reasonable to suppose even Thomsonism can cure him, although its success seems to have been almost miraculous. Hence the danger of too long neglecting the proper means. Hardly any one thinks of calling in a Thomsonian, until he has tried every thing else, and in this particular, I think they greatly err: indeed, I do not only *think* so, but I *know* so.

One case of fistula, thoroughly cured, which a regular physician had said could not be cured without a surgical operation. He had himself been troubled with one, and had been attended by twenty-five doctors; he had been operated upon several times, and in the last resort, had applied to a Thomsonian for relief. Whether he followed up the system until cured, I know not; but I do not doubt myself, that in most cases of this description, relief may be obtained

by pursuing the Thomsonian system of practice.

One very singular and distressing case I will relate, in order to get the regulars to name it for me. The patient was first attacked by sneezing, which continued for half an hour, very violently. For about two months afterwards, he had a severe pain in the back part of the head, as he said about the size of a pea. I treated the case with regular courses, and was at last obliged to poultice the place where he felt the pain, as baths, and all other applications had failed. In about a week or ten days from the time I commenced with him, I had brought the sore, (for such it proved to be,) to a head; it was a little larger than a goose-egg. I then lanced it, taking away about a tea cup full of matter; and from time to time afterwards, I took away about as much more. He suffered so much in his head, that for six or eight nights he could not lie down, but walked the room all the time; he only felt easy when under the operation of the medicine, and it was absolutely necessary to carry him through a course every day or every other day, until he had taken seven courses. In three or four days after opening the sore, he was completely cured, and went home, and is now enjoying perfect health, for which he is indebted to the Thomsonian system. He often tells me, with tears in his eyes, that I was the means of saving his life; but to Dr. Thomson belongs the credit of the cure, and to me only the credit of faithfully practising upon his system. I should like to have the regulars name this case for me, because I have now under my care, a woman, who has been attended by eleven different doctors, of the mineral school, and given over as incurable. Her disease, it was said, was the "NEW WRANGLES ON THE BRAIN," and so rare a disease is it, that they had not any of them seen more than one case of the kind, and the whole eleven could not cure it. Whether I shall succeed or not, is as yet uncertain: she had long been given over, before I took her, and it will prove a much more difficult matter to rid her system of the mineral poisons she has taken, than to remove the "*New Wrangles on the Brain*," although I feel much encouraged, from present appearances, to expect that I shall ultimately be successful.

I have had very considerable practice in dentistry, within the last year, and have been highly successful. In many cases that I have attended, which had been first attempted to be extracted by the regulars, I have met with the most abundant success. One in particular, I will describe. It was the case of a man who was troubled with a hollow stump in his jaw. It was so much decayed, that the finger could be put into the tooth, to the depth of about a quarter of an inch below the gum, which was much swollen. Several physicians in Danvers and Salem had said the stump could not be extracted. I undertook the case, and succeeded in extracting it, without the least difficulty. So

great has been my success, in this branch of practice, that I can, without the least affectation, challenge all competition. In no case to which I have been called, have I failed of success; and as I have had many cases of the very worst description, I feel confident in inviting all who wish aid in this branch, to call upon me, where they may be assured of receiving the most faithful treatment. My success in this branch depends, as does my success in my other practice, not upon my own skill, so much as upon the virtue of the remedies and instruments which I use.

JOHN R. PATTEN, T. B. P.
Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,

[Original.]

CONTEMPTIBLE CONDUCT OF A REGULAR DOCTOR.

MR. EDITOR,—Until very recently, I have given the Thomsonian system no attention. Like many others, I had, gratuitously, engaged in treating it with contempt, and in giving currency to the base and ridiculous fabrications in circulation respecting it. My attention was directed to it, by becoming acquainted with several cases given up by the "faculty" as *desperate*, in which the "Botanic remedies" proved, not only successful, but *triumphant*.

The Thomsonian system comes to us, holding out to the afflicted of our race, an abundance of blessings, and purporting to be unparalleled in its alleviation of human suffering. As such, however strong may be our opposition to it from motives of interest, or however deeprooted and inveterate may be our prejudices against it, as *philanthropists* and *christians*, it demands of every individual a careful examination. I care not how numerous, or how powerful the attacks that may be made upon it; if it cannot withstand the envenomed assaults of the diplomatic faculty, and if it be not impervious to the mightiest weapons of truth, when brought to bear upon it, in all their potency and effect, let it fall, and I shall rejoice at its overthrow. That its opponents, instead of attacking it with fair and manly argument, resort to means the *most despicable*, for its subversion, is one *strong reason* for the belief, that it stands upon an immovable basis.

In a community like ours, when five or six of the "faculty" have possessed the land for many years, without molestation, you need not be informed, that Thomsonism has to contend *earnestly* for every inch of ground it gains, and yet, its feet "*stand in a large place*." But means have been put in requisition to retard its progress, to which, it would seem, that human nature, *fallen* and *degraded* as it is, would never have stooped. For instance:—My neighbor was sick. He applied to a Thomsonian for advice. Some "*Composition*," "*Bitters*," and "*Hot Drops*" were dealt out to him, with directions for use. He took a small quantity of the

Bitters, and soon after was taken with a fit. He attributed it to the deleterious effect of the Bitters, and one of the "faculty" was immediately called. He arrived—very gravely, and with insufferable pomposity, examined the medicine; and ventured (imprudent man!) to taste of the "Drops." He was thrown, *instantly*, into the most excruciating pain:—sunk down upon the nearest chair; threw back his head; was very faint, and in great distress. After he had partially recovered from the attack, and had gained a sufficient degree of strength to stand, and the faculty of speech was restored, he begged of his patient the privilege of consigning the "*deadly drug*" to the flames; which being granted, it was done with all due pomp, and in the course of an hour he had so far recovered from the effects of the deadly potion, as to be able to prescribe to his patient. His stiffened tongue soon acquired a remarkable degree of volubility. He enlarged upon the deadly properties of *lobelia*; stated that a tea-spoonful of the essence would produce almost instantaneous death; and concluded, by remarking that *some* of the Thomsonian medicines were *very good*, but that they ought *never* to be administered, except by persons thoroughly acquainted with the human system! Now, any person of common penetration, would perceive, at once, that this was done for effect. The patient's daughter had acumen sufficient to perceive, and independence enough to acknowledge, that the whole transaction was a *mere farce*. When we take into consideration, that this *same physician*, who so narrowly escaped death by the "Drops," *owns* a "*Right*," and when called to a family where he perceives much predisposition to Thomsonism, administers the same "*deadly drops*," and gives the same "*poisonous lobelia*," thus becoming all things to all men, that he may prevent the spread of the Thomsonian system, he appears before the community in a point of view, to say the least, *supremely ridiculous*. Instead of producing the designed effect, this act gave his *own system* an accelerating impulse in its descent to oblivion. Thomsonism will *never* be subverted by such means. Like every other system, its value must be tested by its practical results. It must go before the people: let them become acquainted with it, and ere long they will bring in their verdict. The sooner this is done the better it will be for the "regulars," who are now "all their lifetime subject to bondage," trembling for the fate of their system, and fearing, lest the Thomsonians "should come and take away their place and nation."

So far as I have examined the history of the Botanic System, it does not, as yet, appear to have interfered much with the "old practice." It has followed after the "regulars," in the fields which they have reaped down with their "*heroic medicines*," and gleaned not a few patients, consigned over to death, by the most renowned and skilful of the "*faculty*," and has restored them to health, activity, and usefulness.

In such base and contemptible measures as

the above, I hear, or think I hear, the knell of the "old practice" tolling; and in many portions of the country, I doubt not the generation *now lives*, that will hear its dirge sung, and see it carried to its long home.

When a few more years shall have passed away, and a little more obloquy and contempt shall have been heaped upon THOMSON, his name will be inscribed as far above those of Sydenham and Rush, on the roll of fame, as are those above that of

Your humble servant,

CONSISTENCY.

Nashua, February 24th, 1837.

Our correspondent must excuse us for not publishing his communication before; the delay was unavoidable. We like it, and hope we shall often hear from him.

[Original.]

THOMSONIAN RETREAT, Near Raymond, }
Hinds County, Miss., Nov. 20th, 1836. }

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Venerable Friend,—With a heart overflowing with gratitude, I address you, to give vent to the feelings natural to one who has been snatched from the grave, and saved from an untimely death.

In the fall of 1835, we removed from Tennessee to Mississippi. My health was somewhat delicate, which through the winter became more and more precarious. In the spring, being in delicate circumstances, I became very feeble, and finally took a bad cold and cough. An M. D. was called; he gave me calomel and bled me; I took some other medicine, I know not what. For several days, I grew worse; and finding myself sinking fast, (knowing that an abortion would take place, and being persuaded, from every symptom, that my child was already dead,) I sent for A. A. Clark, T. P. On his first visit, he seemed to be almost hopeless of my case, told me what must be the result, (of which I was perfectly sensible), and added that he was willing to do all he could for me, if I would follow his prescriptions, and that he thought it possible for me to recover. I was much swelled all over, my appetite entirely gone, and I constantly puked up every thing I ate or drank. He commenced giving Thomsonian medicine, and continued faithfully, day and night, for three weeks, during which time I lived exclusively on the medicine. I could take nothing else that would remain five seconds on my stomach. My sufferings were great, but much alleviated by the medicine. Dr. Clark now told me that the case must be brought to a crisis—that I could not live but a few days longer in that situation—and that means must be used, sufficient to expel the dead *fetus*. He accordingly gave me the most powerful medicines in the Thomsonian practice, to effect that object; my labor came on, and I was delivered of a

still-born child. Every one who saw it, supposed it must have been dead at least four weeks. This was the (then) *expressed* opinion of the attending midwife.

The Dr. continued his regular Thomsonian treatment, and in three weeks more I was restored to perfect health, which has remained unimpaired to the present moment. In fact, the past summer, I have enjoyed better health than I ever recollect to have done before. During my sickness, I resided with the Dr.: my husband being employed on his farm. He was several times, during the summer, attacked with chills and fever. I administered to him myself, and have never failed to cure with the first course of medicine. I have assisted in giving medicine, and attending on the sick, ever since I recovered, and have witnessed its salutary effects in every case. I am now a thorough Thomsonian, although I have been, and still am, the subject of much abuse from some of my relations and former friends, who I know will brand me with having exceeded all the bounds of prudence and propriety, in giving you this statement of facts. But, I ask, should not a child show its gratitude to an aged parent? Had it not been for your labors and discoveries, I should now have been numbered with those who have fallen victims to poisonous drugs. Of this I am fully convinced. And if I have communicated anything that may encourage others to escape, and fly, as I have done, from *Calomelizing*, *Blistering*, and the *Lancet*, I care not for their charge of indelicacy. I wish to honor you, as a father and friend. I worship none but my Maker! But I do extol that fecundity of genius, by which you have been enabled to make those grand discoveries, which are destined to bless the yet unborn millions of the human race.

I have cheerfully given you this statement of facts, which you may make any use of you please—correcting any mistakes you may find in my manner of writing, and retaining only the facts. You will excuse the romantic feelings of a woman, while I inform you that I have received from one of your General Agents the portrait of the venerable founder of the Thomsonian system, which I keep hung up in my room, and look at with admiration and gratitude every day of my life.

With profound respect,

I remain yours, &c. &c.,

MARY F. WIGGIN.

I do hereby certify, that the facts stated in the above communication of my wife, are strictly and literally true. I am fully convinced, that, if it had not been for the faithful and persevering attention of Dr. A. A. Clark, and the efficient medicine of Dr. S. Thomson, she must have sunk to an untimely grave—being only in her 25th year.

THOMAS B. WIGGIN.

I have lived part of the present year in the family of Dr. A. A. Clark, at the *Thomsonian*

Retreat, and have witnessed the constant success of the Thomsonian medicine, in curing the most inveterate cases of disease. I have likewise witnessed most of the facts, and believe the statement of Mrs. Mary Frances Wiggin, to be strictly and literally true.

JAMES S. COWAN.

Hinds County, } I do hereby certify, that my-
Mississippi. } self, my son, daughter, and
three servants, were cured by Thomsonian medicine, administered by Dr. A. A. Clark, in 1835, of severe diseases; one of which was chronic, and of several years standing; the others, fevers and mumps, after having taken cold; one a relapsed case of congestive fever; and the other cholera.

Given under my hand, this 20th day of November, 1836.

MARY GOODNOW.

[Original.]

—, March 20th, 1837.

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

About two years since, I purchased a Thomsonian family right, of your authorised agent, Benjamin Newcomb, of Vassalboro'. I had been in a poor state of health for many years, and considered myself in a decline, and had taken medicine of the faculty to no real benefit. Had I continued to take their medicine, I think I should not now be alive. The Thomsonian medicine, applied according to the directions, has improved my health, which is now tolerably good. I then lived in Nobleboro'. It is about six months since I moved here. I am now practising on your system, as laid down in your *New Guide to Health*, with success, though I have had some cases given over by the faculty, who are now in a good state of health.

I was at Nobleboro' not long since, and found that your agent was in a poor state of health, and is not expected to live but a short time. He has been confined to his house about five months. He made some use of Botanic medicine, with not much success; and, instead of applying to Thomsonians, he applied to one of the faculty, but, as might have been expected, without any success. He then applied to a doctress woman, who doctors on the Indian system of medicine, without benefit, and there is no probability that he will recover. I think he has not managed prudently in his case, and furthermore he has been very careless with his book, letting it lie about the room, for any one that came in to peruse, if they pleased; and he has informed his neighbors and friends how to make medicine, and use it. I do not think he became possessed of his book in a very honorable way, in the first place. I further understood that his book is now in the possession of one of the faculty, and I think these things ought to be looked to; the course he has taken has been a great injury to the Thomsonian system in that place; and I understood that his

brother is acting as agent under him. I think he is not a fit person, and will be of no advantage to the system.

I feel safe to recommend John Plummer, of Nobleboro', to you, for an agent. He has been in possession of Elias Smith's book for some time, and has practised by it considerably, and with tolerable success. But if he can be appointed agent, he will make arrangements to obtain one of your rights, and adopt your system of practice.

REMARKS ON THE ABOVE.

We received the above from a correspondent, who says that he felt it his duty to state the facts to us, contained in his communication, and gives us liberty to do with them as we think proper. We have therefore published the communication, that our agent at Nobleboro' can have an opportunity to see the charges preferred against him, and contradict them, if they are not true. The pages of the Manual are open to him, and before taking other measures, we shall wait a reasonable time to hear from him.

With respect to giving an agency to Mr. P., that will be an after-consideration. He is probably aware of the terms of an agency, and of the proper manner of obtaining one. We know of no particular reason why he cannot obtain one, if he can comply with the terms. We should recommend him to obtain a family right, however, whether he gets an agency or not. He will find it much more valuable, even for family use alone, than the book he now possesses.

[Original.]

Extract from a letter, dated

Goshen, (Ct.) April 9th, 1837.

"By the way, I must tell you an anecdote of the triumph of Thomsonism over opposition. A poor man, by the name of More, a blacksmith by trade, and a firm believer in Thomsonism, had for some months been his own doctor. Being likely to have an addition to his family, the opponents of Thomsonism told him that he would have to call in the regulars, as there was no Thomsonian nigh, who officiated in such cases. Not wishing to be beholden to them, and feeling disposed to let them know that he was not, he resolved to go-ahead himself. Although he resided in a thickly settled neighborhood, only two women could be found who would assist him, and they were about to leave, but, by his telling them that he should go ahead alone, if they left, they thought best to stay. He was completely successful, thus showing that learned ignorance is not necessary on

such occasions; and my advice to all intelligent Thomsonians is, inform yourselves on this, as well as all other subjects, be your own accoucheurs, keep the poison doctors away, (as I have no doubt an acquaintance of mine died last fall from their mal-treatment, to say nothing of the sufferings of others), and you will be the gainers by it.

D. NORTON.

DEATH FROM INHALING ARSENIATED HYDROGEN.—On the 5th inst., Mr. Joseph Edwards Bullocke, the only son of Mr. Joseph Bullocke, of Penzance, and who has for some time past resided with Mr. Beard, chemist, in this town, delivered a lecture on the gasses, at the Mechanics' Institute, recently established here; and, on the 19th, exhibited a series of experiments, to illustrate that lecture; amongst others, he hazarded an experiment with the arseniated hydrogen, procured by sulphuric acid poured on arseniate of zinc; and the gas jar not having as much water in it as he (being near sighted) supposed it had, and the atmospheric air above the water diluting the gas, he inconsiderately applied his mouth to draw up the atmospheric air, while the process of generation was going on, and unhappily inhaled a portion of the gas, which being highly poisonous, affected his whole nervous system, and ultimately his lungs; the case baffled the skill of his medical attendants, and although for several days no alarming apprehensions were entertained, to the great grief of his father and sister, and a circle of attached friends, he died yesterday morning.—[*Falmouth Cornubian*, Dec. 30.]

THE POISONED VALLEY OF JAVA.—The usual meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, took place on Saturday; the Right Hon. Sir W. W. Wynn in the chair. A paper was read by Col. Sykes, on the poisoned Upas Valley, at Betur, in Java, extracted from a letter by Mr. Loudon, containing a description of his visit to the place, in July, 1830. According to the statement of Mr. Loudon, this valley is twenty miles in extent, and of a considerable width; it presents a most desolate appearance, the surface being sterile, and without any vegetation. The valley contains numerous skeletons of mammalia and birds. In one case, the skeleton of a human being was seen, with the head resting upon the right hand; according to tradition, it is said, that the neighboring tribes were in the habit of driving their criminals into the valley to expiate their crimes. Mr. Loudon tried the experiment of lowering some dogs and fowls into the valley, and in every case animation became quickly suspended, although life was prolonged in some instances for ten minutes. The valley proved to be the crater of an extinguished volcano, in which carbonic acid gas is generated, like the Grotto del Cane, at Naples. The fabulous influence imputed to the Upas tree is, therefore, without foundation, the mortality being caused solely by the deleterious agency of the gas.—[*London paper*.]

NEW WAY OF APPLYING LEECHES.—“Well, my good woman, said the doctor, “how is your husband to-day? Better, no doubt.”

“Oh, yes, surely,” said the woman. “He is as well as ever, and gone to the field.”

“I thought so,” continued the doctor. “The leeches have cured him. Wonderful effect they have. You got the leeches, of course.”

“Oh, yes, they did him a great deal of good, though he could not take them all.”

“Take them all! Why, my good woman, how did you apply them?”

“Oh, I managed nicely,” said the wife, looking quite contented with herself. “For variety’s sake, I boiled one half, and made a fry of the other. The first he got down very well, but the second made him very sick. But what he took was quite enough,” continued she, seeing some horror in the doctor’s countenance, “for he was better the next morning, and to-day he is quite well.”

“Umph!” said the doctor, with a sapient shake of the head, “If they have cured him, that is sufficient, but they would have been better applied externally.”

The woman replied that she would do so the next time; and I doubt not that if ever fate throws a score of unfortunate leeches into her power again, she will make a poultice of them.


And we doubt not that either of the above ways would produce as much benefit, and far less injury, than the ordinary mode of applying them.—ED. MANUAL.

FLINT COMPOSED OF LIVING ANIMALCULES. [Confirmed.]—The dreams of Orpheus, who moved the flinty rocks with the divine melody of his lute, and the line of Shakspeare, that there are “speaking sermons in stones,” seem realized by the marvellous experiments of Mr. Crosse, of Somersetshire, to which we have alluded. Chemistry has thus discovered processes full as wonderful as the miracles of the scriptures. At a late meeting of the Royal Institution, London, the celebrated chemist, Dr. Faraday, delivered a lecture, in which he alluded to the recent discoveries of Mr. Crosse, with respect to the formation or revivification of insects in flint, which, although doubted by many, he knew to be true, inasmuch as, by a continuous voltaic stream from silicia of potass, he himself produced living animalculæ. He also exhibited some insects obtained from hard polished stone, and which were now, like those of Mr. Crosse, enjoying life after a transition of many thousand years.

PHRENOLOGICAL TRAITS OF POLITICAL CRIMINALS.—The poor creatures engaged in the Vendome conspiracy are already, after the fashion of the ruling mania of the day, having their heads, previous to decapitation, phrenologically examined by the Parisian adepts of the Gall and Spurzheim school. The mutilations of character, accomplished by these latter,

are not unfrequently as terrific as those performed on the body by the guillotine. Phrenology, like every other occult science, has its quacks. All the prisoners have mild countenances, (“to smile, and smile, yet be a villain,”) except Bruyant, who, as his name imports, has a brute flat face, with a distorted projecting forehead, and sour, sombre look.

ARTIFICIAL FORMATION OF CRYSTALLIZED IRON PYRITES.—This process of M. Wohler, consists in slowly heating in a glass flask, or other convenient vessel, peroxide of iron, sulphur, and hydrochlorate of ammonia, intimately mixed, until all the ammoniacal salt is sublimed, suffering the mass to cool slowly, and afterwards washing with water; there will be found at the bottom of the vessel heavy octohedra and tetrahedra, of a yellow color, which are identical with the common crystallized pyrites. The larger the mass of the materials employed, the larger and more perfect are the crystals obtained.—[*Journal de Pharmacie*, October, 1836:

EAT RICE.—Rice is one of the cheapest vegetables a family can use in these times of monopoly and high prices, and it is also one of the most nutritious and healthy. By the way, few cooks north of Mason & Dixon’s Line, know how to prepare this article properly. It should be boiled in a bag—put into the water when cold, and boiled steadily for one hour. Another thing should not be forgotten, which generally is, here at the north; and which causes the rice that comes upon our tables, to have such an insipid taste;  into the water in which the rice is to be boiled, should be thrown a handful of SALT. This gives it flavor, and prevents its becoming a paste.—[*Commercial Herald*:

SUBTERRANEAN INSECTS.—The deepest mine in England, is at Monkwearmouth, which is 1,584 feet below the surface; professor Phillips found the temperature of the pit about 71 degrees; it has now been sunk deeper, and the average temperature has increased to 79 degrees, a heat which makes it difficult for the men to work beyond six hours at a time. In addition to this inconvenience, a species of fly, about an inch long, has appeared, by the bite of which both men and horses are much annoyed:

A HINT ON WARMING BEDS.—In taking coals into the warming-pan, remove any black coals in a burning state; and scatter upon those in the pan a little common salt. This will correct the unhealthy sulphureous vapor of the coals, and prevent their suffocating smell. [A little cayenne, or pepper-vinegar, would doubtless answer the same purpose.]

EXTRACT FROM BORNEY.—“I have ceased to be surprised at many things, but what surprises me every day is, that two diplomatists can look at one another without laughing!” [Good—excellent—first-rate!]

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—Milton.

BOSTON, MAY 15, 1837.

Some of our subscribers in Danvers complain that they do not receive the Manual regularly. The fault is not ours, as they are now mailed with great care and regularity; it must be in the Post-Office. Will our friends investigate the matter? and if they can inform us of any method by which the difficulty may be removed, we will cheerfully do all in our power toward effecting it. There are three post-offices in Danvers, and perhaps from this fact may arise the difficulty.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—There are many of our subscribers, who have not forwarded their subscription for the second volume of the Manual, and some who are still owing us for the first volume. We shall forward bills to those who are in arrears, and wish them to remit to us the amount forthwith. We shall strike off from our subscription list the names of those, who, after a reasonable time, shall not have complied with our terms, for we had better be without their *patronage*, than to have it. And we shall, moreover, publish their names, and caution the publishers of other botanic journals against forwarding their papers to them. We hope, however, that we shall not be obliged to do this.

Those of our agents who hold any money in their hands, which they have collected from subscribers, will oblige us by transmitting the same immediately, together with what they can collect of those who have not yet paid.

A GOOD ONE. *Graham Infants*.—It is generally believed, that women, when nursing, require a rather more rich and plenteous diet, than ordinarily; and a friend at our elbow asks, "How do the Graham babies live?" This is a "poser" for us, as we have never had the felicity of being present at the interesting occasion

of a Graham lady nursing her little "responsibility." Our Graham friends must indulge us in a little merriment at their expense, unless they can answer the above query. We are firm believers in, and advocates for, abstemiousness in eating and drinking; but when it comes to bread-and-water, and water-and-bread, we are off. Suppose some Grahamite should take his horse, (a parallel case,) from hay-and-grain, and keep him upon hay-and-water, how long would it take to *fat* him?

"LECTURES ON THOMSONISM."—The subscriber wishes to give notice, (as he is still frequently called upon to go out to lecture,) that, for various reasons, (some of which are of a private nature,) he will not be able to go any more. He sincerely regrets that he has been compelled to disappoint several who have sent for him, which was the result more of unavoidable circumstances, than of will; and he trusts that, (while he continues his labors in the cause through the columns of the Manual, shielded from the public eye, though not from the public mind,) some other person, perhaps far better qualified than himself, will step forward, and secure the ground where he has beaten the track. Such an one is much needed; there is still a vast field to labor in, and an immense work that can and ought to be done. Any one qualified, and disposed to devote his whole time to the object, can accomplish much good to the cause, to himself, and to humanity. And the consciousness of doing that, which is dictated by benevolence and philanthropy, from pure motives, with a heart that is clear in truth, lays a "flattering unction to the soul," which not all the jibes, and jeers, and contumelies, of the ignorant, prejudiced, interested, and malignant, can take away.

The last places where the lectures have been delivered, were Dover and Somersworth, N. H.; and New Rowley, Mass., where they appeared to be extremely well received, particularly at the latter, where there was a more numerous attendance, than at either of the other two. In every place where the lectures have been delivered, the audiences, (comprising both sexes,) have been, both in point of numbers and intelligence, of an order far above mediocrity. They appeared to be composed of the *thinking* portion of community, and although in many instances; the lectures have been very long, yet

but very few persons manifested any uneasiness, and the majority have exhibited the most intense interest. From the profound stillness which on many occasions prevailed, the speaker frequently experienced a thrill passing over him, when nothing but the sound of his own voice broke the silence which reigned throughout the assembled numbers.

Some few have thought the lectures bore too hard, in some instances, (although in this respect they were carefully pruned,) upon the diplomatic faculty; yet, upon reflection, they will, doubtless, think otherwise. Taken as a whole, however, fewer objections have been urged against the lectures, than could have been anticipated, attacking as they did, long established customs and prejudices; and it cannot but be hoped, that the seed is sown, which will ultimately yield an abundant harvest.

On several occasions, the "faculty" have had independence enough to attend, and some of those who did so, were very busy in "taking notes," and it was expected that they would reply; but as they did not see fit to do so, if they wish to use their "notes" in this way, the pages of the Manual are open to them for articles of a reasonable length. This is a favor the "faculty" will not extend to us; but if any of them wish to accept the offer, they are at liberty to do so; if not, much good may their "notes" do them. By the way: On two occasions, the men of "parchment diploma" attempted to "brow-beat," but they did not succeed; and the "conspicuous stations" which they assigned themselves, only served to expose them the more fully to the gaze of the audience, who were the witnesses of their — discomfiture, we were going to say — but no matter.

A little bit of a "flare-up," which, for the sake of a designation, we will call a "debate," took place on one occasion, with an individual, not a member of the "faculty," an account of which, if some of our friends in W. will prepare for the Manual, will not be devoid of interest. If they do not, perhaps at some future time we shall. It will serve to show, that objections to Thomsonism *can be answered*.

☞ In consequence of several inquiries on the subject, we would inform the patrons of the Manual, that it is Dr. Thomson's intention to have a Title-page and Index, for the first and second volumes of the Manual, printed, and

forwarded to subscribers; at the close of the present volume. It is presumed, that they will be prepared with reference to having both volumes bound in one.

GENUINE AND SPURIOUS THOMSONIAN MEDICINES.

We have more than once raised the warning voice against the use of "spurious," "cheap," or "cheat" Thomsonian medicines; by which we mean, adulterated and deleterious compounds, rotten articles, and others ground up with rye-meal, dirt, and chips, and palmed off upon the public, under the name of "Thomsonian medicines." From these impositions many persons have received the most essential injury; and the unhappy consequences which have resulted from the use of such articles, have, in many instances, been ascribed to the "Thomsonian medicines." In justice to the public, and to Dr. Thomson, therefore, we again call upon all who prefer to use Thomsonian botanic medicines, to minerals, either to be sure to obtain *pure* or *genuine* articles, or if they had rather have the *impure* or *spurious*, on account of their *cheapness*, we wish that the injury sustained by their use, may not be heaped upon Thomsonism.

"All is not gold that glitters," and, (whether we are believed or not), we assure the public that all the articles, called "botanic," are not useful medicines, neither are all botanic remedies, "Thomsonian medicines;" although Dr. Thomson's name may be used to insure sales, which could not possibly be effected without.

☞ The pure "Thomsonian medicines" can be obtained at Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON'S General Depot, No. 33, Washington-street, Boston, (from whence his agents are supplied), and, also, from any of his authorized agents. A list of those persons, in various parts of the country, who are regular agents, is published in the Thomsonian Manual, and can be seen at 33, Washington-street. Dr. Thomson's agents in Boston, are, Wm. Clark, Harvard-street; Aaron Dow, 7, Brattle-street; John Sherburne, Pond-street; John Locke, Portland-street.

Elias Smith, Hosea Winchester, Dr. Magoon, and many others, who pretend to sell Thomsonian medicines, are not agents, neither do they obtain their medicines from Dr. Thomson; and if the public are injured by medicines procured of them, the fault is not Dr. Thomson's, but

their own, and they will be the greatest losers. C. W. Rugg, Newburyport, Ms., P. D. Badger, Nashua, N. H., and many others, in various places, will be noticed by us, when we shall have leisure; till then, we can only assure the public that they are not agents of Dr. Thomson, obtain no medicines of him, and we hope that any injurious consequences, which may result, from the use of articles procured of them, may not be ascribed to "Thomsonian" medicine, for such it is not.

We insert the following extract from a letter from a friend in Philadelphia, in order to show that the course pursued in conducting the Manual, meets the approbation of those who are "sound in the faith." We receive many such testimonials, and are encouraged by them to go on, and to "hold fast to that which is good."

"One word more. Your paper is the paper for the people, as it shows up in their true light those who would impose upon the public, and upon your rights, by pretending theoretically to adhere to your principles, but who, in practice, do ten times more injury to the cause, in one year, than all the combined forces of the *mineral craft* could ever do. These are facts. And it behoves all, who feel an interest in the cause, to turn their backs forever upon the man, who pretends to be a Thomsonian, but whose hands are too delicate to administer a steam bath, or an emetic."

We copy the following communication from the Burlington (Vt.) Sentinel, in order to make a few comments upon the same; as all the charges it contains are incorrect:

MR. EDITOR: On examining the contents of the last Thomsonian Manual, I discovered in the editorial notice, that they think of printing the Manual semi-monthly, and to warrant the undertaking, must obtain a few more subscribers, and wish to know the feelings of their friends on the subject.

I consider myself a friend, although I am not known as such—for I can receive that valuable paper only by begging—but I think it is the means of doing much good, and would advise all believers to obtain it—but it would be the means of doing much more good if the proprietor would honor us with his presence.

As to Thomson's patent practice and agents, there is much said and little done, which would be the reverse if the Patentee would comply with our wishes—even answer communications from us, or if he would appoint an agent in this section of the country, that he can rely on or place confidence in, so that he need not be kept in suspense, and all to no purpose. I do not know as there could be a person found that

would act as agent under his restrictions, for if I have not been very much misinformed, the bond is a complete combination, which is as bad or worse than the regular faculty, which you, for years, have severely condemned. Now, to follow such an example or to admit that such a combination as he proposes, might be made in good faith, is *it not* self-evident that the very same motive which induces him to the violation of his former faith to the public, would lead to the establishing of a new practice, over which he could have no control? I do not wish to censure, nor to be understood that I am declaring war against the Patentee or his practice, for I am one of his warmest advocates, and ask for information, and hope it will be punctually attended to, as well as the reasons given why my communication was not noticed when I wrote for the Manual.

Despise not a humble individual, because his powers of mind are inferior to your own—wake up the slumbering conscience, that you may listen to a worthy friend, and look abroad on your profession, and see the effects of your influence before the public, and proclaim your willingness to visit your patrons, and this would awaken strangers; many dormant minds would be aroused to action, and you would be hailed with gratitude,

W. S. JOHNSON,
Botanic Physician.

Burlington, April 22, 1837.

Although there is much that we do not understand, in the above, yet there is an appearance of candor exhibited, which seems to entitle those portions of it, which we *do* understand, to a reply. We will first state, that this is the *first* time, to our recollection, that we ever heard any thing of, or from, "W. S. Johnson." If he has ever sent any communications for the Manual, (which he says he has done,) they were either never received, or (what is quite likely to have been the case,) were received by the late publisher, through whose carelessness, they were not attended to. We trust therefore that, on this score, both Dr. Thomson, and the present conductors of the Manual, will be exonerated from any charge of neglect. We have no objection to devoting a portion of the Manual to the communications of those whose names are occasionally brought by us before the public, in rather an unfavorable light; or of any one, who feels disposed to find fault with, or to question Dr. Thomson's conduct or our own; but we shall always reserve to ourselves the privilege of replying to such communications, and replying *as we please*. On this condition, we extended the privilege to Hosea Winchester, and are willing to do so to others.

What is said in the third paragraph about

"combination," &c., we do not understand; and the whole paragraph, with the exception of a word or two, is perfect Greek to us. This follows, we presume, from the writer's having been told things which have no foundation in truth. At all events, they are perfectly unintelligible to us; and unless the writer can make himself understood, he cannot expect any explanation from us. The whole difficulty, however, we apprehend, rests upon his not understanding what is meant by the "*bond*," to which he alludes; or, rather, from his not knowing what that instrument is. He should have *been sure* that he had not been "*misinformed*" before *publicly* expressing his holy horror at the *to be* detested "combination" into which he seems to think it will lead those who attach their signatures to it. We will give him a brief explanation of it, which will serve to show why *certain individuals*, (i. e. those who find fault with it,) object to it. It is merely a *test* of honesty; and those who are disposed to be honest, do not object to it. Some persons will be honest without such a check upon their chance of being otherwise; and it is only upon persons who are not so, that this requirement can be galling.

"The poor bird that hath been already lim'd,
With trembling wings misdoubts of every bush!"

And Dr. Thomson, having been defrauded, swindled, abused and slandered by his pretended friends, has, in the last resort, adopted the rule, "if you find a man honest, keep him so." We flatter ourselves, that our friend Johnson, with this explication of the matter, will have the magnanimity to correct, through the same paper in which his communication first appeared, the unjust inferences which may be drawn from his remarks. He says he is a friend to Dr. Thomson and his system; we trust he is; and if so, honor and duty demand that the correction be made. We are sure he would not object, were any one about to confide to him an important trust, to give "*bonds*" for its faithful performance? If he did object, *we* would not trust him!

The last paragraph is not more intelligible to us, than the one which precedes it. If we do not "*misunderstand*" it, it is a call upon Dr. Thomson to "*wake up*" his "*slumbering conscience*," and to "*proclaim his willingness to visit*" his "*patrons*"; which may do very well as a rhetorical flourish, but we can attach no other importance to it, as we do not believe that

Dr. Thomson's conscience is "*slumbering*," or that he has become so changed, as to be unwilling to "*visit his patrons*," so far as he is able. That he cannot "*visit*" all his "*patrons*," who call or send for him, we readily admit; which is owing to his advanced years, and many cares, rather than to the want of a willingness to do it.

Our self-styled "*friend*," in his second paragraph, says he can "*receive*" our "*valuable paper only by begging*." Here, again, he is in error. On no account would we withhold from any one—even our most bitter enemies—the privilege of investigating the contents of the Manual. We covet not secrecy; and as an earnest of our readiness to have our course known, we have published the most important articles that have appeared in the numbers of the present volume, and circulated them gratuitously, as extensively as we were able. We would gladly have the Manual circulated far and wide; we would wish that all might read, and benefit from it. We would be friends with all, and dwell in harmony with them, and unite our energies with theirs to promote the good cause; but we cannot wink at the evil practices of any, either from the hope of their friendship, or the fear of their enmity. And we consider those who are sailing under the Botanic flag, and dealing in quackery, as worse enemies, than the open supporters of the mineral craft. One traitor in the camp, will plot more mischief, than an army in the open field can execute.

Finally, we say to all, that one dollar, sent to this office, will entitle whoever sends it to one volume of the Manual; and we pledge ourselves that the same shall be forwarded according to order. So let us hear no more about "*begging*" a sight of it. Our friend must not understand us as replying in anger to him; for we do not feel any, and would not.

SMALL-POX.—Since the publication of the article on this subject, in our March number, a great many facts have come to our knowledge, which serve to confirm us in the opinions there laid down. The particulars of one case we will relate, touching the dangerous consequences which result from inoculation.

Eight persons, out of a family consisting of eleven, were inoculated from a girl who was in a consumption, of which she died. Prior to this, the whole family—without a single exception—were remarkably healthy; scarcely know-

ing what it was to have a day's sickness. Five of those who were inoculated, were dead six years since; and the other three were at that time in a declining state of health, and thought to be in a confirmed consumption. They enjoyed scarcely a day's health, from the time that they were inoculated; and exhibited the same symptoms as those of the girl, from whom the virus had been taken, which had destroyed their comfort, their health, and their lives. The remaining three, who were not inoculated, have enjoyed the most uninterrupted health; their iron constitutions seem proof against the inroads of disease; and it was from one of them that these particulars were gathered, who firmly believed that the evils which we have related, arose from the cause to which we have ascribed them.

BRANDRETH'S PILLS.—We should not feel that we fully discharged the duty which we owe to the public, did we withhold from them the knowledge of any facts, calculated to relieve their sufferings. We allude to the *superior* power and efficacy of the Vegetable Pills of Dr. William Brandreth's grandfather, the late celebrated, &c. &c., (vide Dr. B.'s advertisement, in *almost any* one of the public prints.) We are going to relate two remarkable instances of the *extraordinary* power of these pills. One was a very aged lady, who was so badly afflicted with rheumatism, that she was bent nearly double; *quite* double, for her forehead touched the ground! In this most deplorable condition, she had recourse to Brandreth's pills; took *twelve*; when, "horrid to relate!" she was instantly thrown as far backward, and the "crown of her head" touched the ground!! She then took *six*, and was what? Turned inside out? No! but immediately made as straight as an arrow!!! Now, friends,—particularly our *nervous* female friends,—control your transports! for what we have related, is but a "flea-bite" to what's to come! Only think, now, sweet ladies, of being in that interesting situation, which promises, in time, to bless your arms with a dear little "responsibility!" Imagine yourselves wishing for, yet dreading, the arrival of the moment that is to close your travail; and then, let us ask, if too much importance can be attached to that medicine, which you can take on going to bed, and find, when you awake in the morning, your precious infant on your arm!

The story's told. Yet, for the sake of perspicuity, we will sum up the particulars. A very nervous lady, being in the delicate situation above alluded to, fretted herself considerably about the final issue; when, having heard of the truly wonderful virtues of Brandreth's pills, she was induced to try them; and, on awaking in the morning, found her infant on her arm! At least, so the story goes; and our readers have it as cheap as we did! We certify not to the truth of the facts; they bear the impress of their own character. But one thing we will certify to, touching these pills, which is, that the practice of many Thomsonian practitioners has been much extended, in consequence of the general use of these pills throughout the community; they having been called upon to patch up the constitutions of those, who had been run down by their use.

"THE BOTANIC SENTINEL."

We extract the following from an article in the "Botanic Sentinel," of April 13th. The allusion to the accusations of the Manual, refers to the remarks which preceded the "Prospectus" of the Sentinel, in our March number. We cheerfully correct the wrong impression we were under; but the articles to which we referred appeared, if we do not very much mistake, under the editorial head of the Sentinel, and we thence inferred that they were from the pen of Dr. Draper. An editor cannot be responsible for the errors of his correspondents; though sometimes it is necessary to correct them. We are sorry for the error we made; and trust that this apology will be as satisfactory to Dr. D., as his explanation is to us. If our readiness to make the remarks which have drawn forth the following, be attributed to an over-jealousy against innovation; we trust that our willingness to make reparation, will show that we wish to be on the most friendly terms with our botanic brethren. And while we are the uncompromising opposer of innovators, we mean to be the justifier of him that doeth right.

"The Manual accuses us of being anti-Thomsonian; but there are not sufficient grounds upon which to rest the charge. Nevertheless, the proprietor of the *Sentinel* has labored under many serious disadvantages since he assumed its publication; and incidentally, there may have been opinions advanced, which he did not sanction. He will take occasion to remark, also, that he is not an advocate for

"amputation," nor "cauterizing," nor "blood-letting," under any circumstances whatever.

"Thus much by way of explanation; for the future, he has made arrangements by which the Sentinel will be conducted on *purely* Thomsonian principles; and he begs to assure those who may have questioned his orthodoxy, that he has ever been the uncompromising advocate of Thomsonism—that he has ever been opposed—and that strenuously—to all innovations upon the system."

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We frequently receive new publications, on the Botanic System; and it is not for the want of a disposition, that we do not give early notice of them. The accumulation of matter on our hands often prevents us, and sometimes unavoidable long delays, renders it useless.

Amongst others, we have received the following:

"Lectures on Midwifery, and the Forms of Disease Peculiar to Women and Children; delivered to the Members of the Botanico-Medical School, at Columbus, Ohio. By A. CURTIS, Principal of the School," &c.—This little work, from the pen of the talented editor of the Thomsonian Recorder, is issued in numbers, and the subscription for the same is one dollar. We have received only the first number, and, judging from that, we should say that the publication would prove a very valuable one. The following is a plan of the work:

1. Advertisement.
2. History of Midwifery.
3. Introduction—Showing the reasons why women need assistance in parturition, the kind needed, and how it is to be rendered.
4. A Complete System of Midwifery on the true Botanic Principles, with illustrative plates.
5. Testimonies from the regular standard authors, proving the vast superiority of the Botanic Theory and Practice.
6. Testimonies from the same, showing the errors in theory and dangers in practice of the Regular System.
7. Examples of the different kinds of practice, showing the safety and efficacy of the Botanic, the danger and fatality of the Regular; and, of course, the folly of abandoning the former and resorting to the latter, in cases of supposed difficulty and hazard.

We can only say now, that this work *promises* much; and *when* we have seen it, we can decide whether it answers our reasonable expectations.

"The Institutes of Thomsonism. By Dr. WILLIAM HENRY FONERDEN.—Philadelphia: printed at the Office of the Botanic Sentinel."

This little work is divided into three parts, and subdivided into twenty-six short chapters; and contains, altogether, 124 pages. Part 1st: Physiology; or, the Theory of Life. Part 2d: Pathology, or, the Theory of Disease. Part 3d: Therapeutics, or, the Science of Curing Disease. We highly approve and recommend this work to all Thomsonians; and, indeed, to others, as we believe it well calculated to do away the prejudices, and silence the objections of the opposers of Thomsonism. Its style is concise, and to the point. The writer does not indulge in useless amplification, and therefore no glossary will be necessary to make him understood. For the present, this passing notice must suffice. At some future time, we shall speak of it more at large.

"A Defence of the Thomsonian Mode of Practising Medicine, as established at the Leicester Infirmary, Mass. By ASA M'COLLUM, Botanic Physician,—Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson."—This is the title of a pamphlet, (the extensive circulation of which would do much good,) which was called forth, as Dr. M'Collum says in his preface, by the treatment he had endured from certain persecutors, who had been busy to bring odium on his mode of practising medicine; and to vindicate his own character, as well as the system he has adopted, against the licentious aspersions with which the enemies of both have assailed him. The pamphlet is composed, mainly, of extracts from the affidavits of disinterested and impartial witnesses, legally elicited by the occasion of a prosecution against him for mal-practice, or rather, as it would seem intended to be understood, *attempted murder*, set on foot by one Edward Lawrence, who found himself at fault how to evade the payment of a debt he had contracted for medical attendance. The expenses incurred by Dr. M'Collum, in his defence were necessarily great; his pamphlet will aid the extension of Thomsonism in any quarter; and we hope our friends will come forward and purchase copies, until the edition is exhausted. The pamphlet can be obtained at Dr. Thomson's General Depot, or of Dr. M'Collum himself, at Leicester.

We have marked several passages in Dr. M'Collum's pamphlet, which we shall publish in the Manual, when we have sufficient space for them.

☞ The prospectus for the third volume of the "Botanic Sentinel," has been received; and we shall endeavor to give it a place in our next. The publisher of the Sentinel has made arrangements, by which he believes that the forthcoming volume will possess many superior attractions to those which have preceded it. The first number of the new volume will be issued on the 24th of August, ensuing.

☞ MORE FACTS, relative to the practice of Magoon, of 554, Washington-street, and C. W. Martin, of Salem, have come to our knowledge, but we cannot attend to them just at present. These facts only confirm what we have before said; and we again caution the public to be on their guard—or they 'll rue it!

☞ The proceedings of the "Connecticut Thomsonian Medical Society," together with the Lecture of Dr. Platt, we shall endeavor to find room for in our next.

[Original.]

AMUSING OCCURRENCE.

MR. EDITOR,—Being in Hampton, N. H., a short time since, I was invited to go and see a neighbor of the friend at whose house I was staying, who was sick; he being troubled with bleeding at the lungs. I had scarcely got into the house and seated, when in stepped his physician. Being a stranger, I felt a little awkward, (which was somewhat increased by the coarseness of the doctor's manners;) and I awaited with all due patience, to see what course the conversation might take. The appearance and manners of the doctor, were anything but prepossessing; and the natural surliness of his character seemed to acquire an additional degree of moroseness from my presence, (as it was presumed that he took me for a doctor;) and, also, from a question, asked by my friend, respecting a sick child that he was attending, and who had been thrown into fits by the medicine given. Another thing, which served, probably, to heighten his suspicions, was a question asked me by his patient, about a case of bleeding at the lungs, which I had been relating to him, when interrupted by the entrance of the doctor; which case was relieved instantly, by the application of botanic remedies. To sum up all, I could not but secretly pray, that I might ever be delivered from the clutches of so forbidding a personage!

The disciple of Esculapius was seated on my left, between myself and his fast sinking patient. He let his head rest on his bosom, rolled up his eyes until the sockets presented the appearance of a piece of raw beef; and then

fixed his gaze upon me, as though he would, no *charm*, but annihilate me! (I've been looked at by too many, to be frightened by one; and he *such* an one!) He then drew up his chair, and seated himself directly before me: warmed his hands; felt of his patient's pulse; examined his *tongue*; inquired respecting the application of the blisters he had ordered; and told the *patient* patient that he would prepare him some pills, which would relieve the pain and constriction which he felt upon his stomach and lungs: then made some inquiries about "*blood-suckers*," which he wished to procure for his patient; and, after giving me two or three more searching, (and certainly not very friendly) glances, from under his bushy and forbidding eye-brows, he left the house.

It was really amusing, to witness the old fellow's *oddity*; for he would hardly open his head to me, even when introduced; and I believe he did not say five words to me afterwards. It was absolutely impossible to draw him into conversation.

I learned respecting his practice, that when first called to his patient, he bled him; thinking, perhaps, that he did not leak fast enough at the *spile*, so he must knock out the *bung*. The operation he performed in his leg, which immediately afterwards swelled up very badly, and it was necessary to poultice it. Thus he had *reduced* the man's strength, and *added* to his difficulties. The man, naturally possessed of a very strong constitution, was, by his difficulty at the lungs, and more especially by his medical treatment, very much reduced; though I then thought a cure could easily have been effected by Thomsonian medicine, and told him so. What the result has been, or will be, I know not; but I am of opinion, that if the course then being pursued, is followed, it will be long, even if he lives through it, before he will find himself where he was when he first called in the follower of Paracelsus and Sydenham. And I should not be in the least surprised, if the next news I heard from him, was, that he had closed his mortal career. I have tried hard to convince people of the folly of bleeding, blistering, poisoning, &c.; but they seem determined not to hear; or, if they hear, not to believe, but to scoff. However, the worse is their own. Yours, respectfully, BOTANICUS.

Boston, April, 1837.

CURIOUS BOTANICAL FACT.—The assertion of Sir Humphrey Davy, that no species of plant will vegetate downwards, has been lately contradicted by an experiment made by Messrs. Lockhart & Co., florists of London, in a narcissus, the bulb of which is placed in a large glass vase filled with water. The narcissus is now on the point of coming into flower downwards, a large pod of bloom and several long leaves being already visible in the water.

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune."

Poetry.

[From the Vernon Courier.]

SONG OF THE SEASONS:

SPRING.

I come, I come—on the zephyr's wing,
And ye sons of earth, ye call me spring;—
The gentle shower,
The sun's bright glow,
The early flower;
Are mine ye know,
I come from the sunny south afar,
Where the orange bower and the tall palm are;
I have called the bird,
From his southern home,
And his voice is heard;—
"I come—I come."
I whisper of love to the maiden fair,
I linger awhile in her sunny hair,
But I travel afar—I cannot stay—
My home is not with ye—away—away.

SUMMER.

I come, I come—the fervid glow
Of the noonday sun is mine, ye know,
The storm is mine,
And the lightning's stroke—
That rifts the pine,
And the mountain oak.
I robe the earth in a brighter hue,
I tinge the sky with a deeper blue;
Mine is the bow,
Of promise given,
The man below,
From God in heaven.
I speak of love in every tone,
The bright and beauteous are all mine own:—
But I travel afar—I cannot stay—
My home is not with ye—away—away.

AUTUMN.

I come, I come—and me ye may know,
For I give to the fruit its ruddy glow:—
And the golden sheaf
Of the harvest grain,
And the yellow leaf,
And the wind's wild strain,—
That passes along in fitful mirth,
And tells ye of change, ye sons of earth—
Are mine—are mine:—
And I bring the bowl,
And the mellow wine,
For the anxious soul:
And with my last and my parting breath,
I bid ye prepare for the hour of death.
But I travel afar—I cannot stay—
My home is not with ye—away—away.

WINTER:

I come, I come—and me ye may know
By the storms that rage and winds that blow;
And the wailing blast,
And the tempest's breath,
Are hurrying past,
Like the spectre, death.
And the hidden flower and the leafless tree,
Have a mournful voice that speaks of me.
I too have a song
Of pleasure and mirth—
'Twas heard from the throng
Around the joyous hearth.

I cause ye to love the peaceful home,
And the voice of friends, whenever I come;
But I travel afar—I cannot stay—
My home is not with ye—away—away:
Ham. College, Sept. 12, 1836. X.

[From the Botanic Sentinel.]

LINES ON THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM.

Deep in the dark and sombre shades of night,
Veiled from the searching rays of truth and light,
Wrapped up in books, immured in learned schools,
Affording ample scope to rogues and fools,
Medicine, once pure as heaven's untainted breath;
Seems clothed in robes of misery and death.
But soon this scene of darkness shall be o'er,
And men be duped by "learned quacks" no more.
E'en now we hail the dawn of that eventful day,
When these thick clouds that darken truth's pure
ray,
Shall melt away before the living light;
Or sink in regions of eternal night.
The spark is struck that shall illumine the world,
The sacred banner of 'Truth's unfurled:
THOMSON appears—upreared by Nature's hand,
A second Luther—sent by God's command;
Poor and unlearned, untutored from the farm,
To pluck from trampled herbs a healing balm.
Though all the "powers of darkness," storm and
rage,
A ruthless war against the 'system' wage,
'Tis vain—the day is past—Truth's sacred light
Shall banish error to the shades of night.

There's not a heath however rude
But hath some little flower,
To brighten up its solitude,
And scent the evening hour!

There's not a heart, however cast
By grief and sorrow down,
But hath some memory of the past;
To love and call his own!

Physic, for the most part, is nothing else but the substitute of exercise or temperance. [Addison.]

A man is but half a man, as long as his soul is lodged in a diseased body. Of all his plans, few are accomplished; of his philanthropic wishes, hardly any are realized; and when he comes to his last sickness, he looks mournfully back upon a life worn out in battling the ills of flesh:

SUDDEN DEATH.—While a burial service was lately performing at East Brent, Eng., as the clergyman was in the act of pronouncing the words, "Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust," Joseph Day, the sexton, while sprinkling the earth upon the coffin, dropped by the side of the grave, and instantly expired. He was 76 years old, and had been sexton 20 years.

SINGULAR TRANSLATION.—Mr. Wakefield, in his translation of the New Testament, renders the passage in Revelation, chap. 22, verse 15, thus—"But without are the dogs and the poisoners." Who are the poisoners? Surely such as give poison to others, or who poison themselves. John gives a description of the New Jerusalem, in which the dogs and poisoners cannot enter, until they are purged from their sins, and become better men.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, JUNE 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 8.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*,
By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, *Printer and Publisher.*

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston.

[Original.]

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE "CONNECTICUT THOMSONIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY."

Hartford, April 18, 1837.

DR. S. THOMSON—Dear Sir:

As the Corresponding Secretary of the "Connecticut Thomsonian Medical Society," I have been authorized and requested to give a brief account of their last annual meeting, holden in New-Haven, January 17 and 18, 1837; and also to request the publication of the enclosed Lecture, delivered before that Society, by Dr. H. PLATT.

The Society met, in pursuance to adjournment, on the 17th of January, 1837, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

After being called to order by the President, about twenty right-holders united with the Society. The meeting was conducted with good spirit, and perfect unanimity pervaded the whole Society. The most cheering news was presented from every part of the state, of the spread of Thomsonism, the good and glorious cause, which is preeminently calculated to increase the happiness and lessen the evils of our fellow men. The business transacted, was principally of a private nature. A petition will again be presented to our Legislature, for a repeal of the "*Doctor's Law*," and we are sanguine in the expectation that it will be carried. It was the wish of the brethren present, that a meeting of right-holders should convene in some central place in New-England—say Worcester—as the United States Convention is so far that it is impossible for many to attend from the north. We think this would subserve the good cause.

We wish the other Thomsonian papers to copy from the Manual the Lecture of Dr. Platt, &c. Yours, in haste,
ISAAC J. SPERRY,
Cor. Sec. Con. T. M. S.

DR. SPERRY,—Sir: Agreeably to the request of the Society, I herewith transmit you a copy of the Lecture I had the honor of delivering before the Society, at its recent annual meeting, on the 18th Jan'y inst., at New-Haven.

Respectfully,
HIRAM PLATT.
Dr. Isaac J. Sperry, Corresponding Secretary
of the Conn. Thom. Med. Soc.

LECTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

By the appointment of the President of this Society, at its last annual meeting, I now rise to address you on the subject of the Thomsonian *Practice of Medicine*.

A consciousness of my inability to render the subject that extent of justice, which its importance demands, gives me disagreeable sensations. These are in some measure counter-balanced, however, by the reflection, that so far as the subject is concerned, I am addressing my brethren and sisters only. And to say that I am highly gratified, to find myself surrounded by so large and intelligent a portion of our happy family, is too faint an expression of my feelings; I am *proud*, I am *proud* of this day and occasion.

That the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice will continue to stand, as an enduring monument of the successful efforts of its venerable founder, Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, in his endeavors to ameliorate the condition of his fellow-mortals, I do not doubt. His happiness has consisted in a continued series of laborious exertions to render others happy.

The ultimate aim of all human effort, is happiness. But if we consult history, that faithful chronicler of the consequences of men's actions, we shall find that many, very many, of those who have acted a conspicuous part on the theatre of human events, have only served to augment the sum of human wretchedness. This is doubtless owing to the erroneous principle by which their actions have been governed.

Those who pursue happiness through a purely selfish channel, and think to attain it by exalting themselves over others, will only increase the general evil, and eventually bring destruction upon themselves. This is a fact, which, though generally admitted in *theory*, is as generally denied in *practice*. Mankind still continue on, vainly endeavoring to erect a temple of happiness for *themselves*, out of the remains of the peaceful cottages which they have been able to scatter in ruins.

The intellectual powers and ingenuity of man, are abundantly sufficient to provide for

all his wants, without abridging the happiness of others. And yet those powers are so far perverted, through ignorance of first principles, as to make him, to a vast extent, the cause of his own and others' misery.

The different sciences, that are capable of adding so much to the comfort and happiness of man, are, through ignorance, only so many perverted means for his destruction. Even the science of medicine, which, above all others, should have contributed to the relief of our worst necessities, has, as *we* now firmly believe, only tended to poison the *only* fountain from which our earthly happiness can flow. In vain do we extend our possessions and heap up stores of luxuries, if we have not health to enjoy them. While the body is diseased, we are like the traveller on the scorching desert, who occasionally gets a glimpse of the hills in the distance, but which only serve to heighten the horrors of his condition, while he knows that his physical energies are too far spent, to support his tottering frame to their cooling shades, and delicious fruits.

I presume there is not one within the sound of my voice, but can readily call to mind the hopeless condition of some one or more of your acquaintances, perhaps a friend, or a near and dear relative, whose body is so borne down with accumulating disease, as to preclude the hope of his ever being any thing but a burthen to himself and friends. And what renders the case doubly aggravating, is the well-known fact, that all this wretchedness, is only the legitimate offspring of a most wretched practice. In vain do the varying seasons spread their luxuries before him, he is filled with life-destroying minerals, the fountain of life is polluted, his muscular energy is paralyzed, his bones deformed, his flesh consumed with ulcerating tumors, and all that should add to his enjoyment only serves to tantalize his tortured mind and feelings.

This is a gloomy sketch, indeed; but I presume you can all bear me witness, that the outlines are but too well filled up. It is a state of things, which I for one, have formerly looked upon as the unavoidable lot of man. I looked upon the *cause* of disease as something beyond the reach of human intellect. And as for the remedies that were recommended by the combined wisdom of medical men for centuries past, I could not but know them to be, not only inefficient and uncertain, but dangerous in the extreme. After myself and family had been repeatedly scourged with disease, the fear of sickness cast a blight over all my enjoyments, and the dread of the remedies was a nipping frost upon all my hopes. I solemnly declare, that while I have been witnessing the joyous mirthfulness of my children, this gloomy picture would intrude itself, and produce such an effect on my mind, that the very verdure and flowers of the field would appear shrouded in gloom. The horrors of those scenes that I had witnessed and *felt* in my family, were ever

present to my mind, and there was no way by which I might expect to escape the awful reality in future. Turn which way I would, the probability of disease presented itself, and use what remedies I might, the certainty of a painfully protracted sickness, and the probability of death's closing the scene, through the agency of the disease, or of the remedies, or both combined, afforded but gloomy lights to guide the mind to a place of rest.

Such was my condition at the time the Thomsonian theory and practice of medicine, was first presented for my consideration. And although I had no confidence in the popular contending theories, and destructive practice of Physicians; yet I was by no means prepared to give this *master-piece of quackery*—as I then supposed it to be—even a decent reception. My brother, who had been for three weeks constantly sinking under the scientific *name* and *treatment* of fever, was induced to place his life in the hands of a *steam quack*. Well, what was the result? Why, *steamed to death*, of course, in the usual way. That is, in four hours, he was freed from fever, and in eight-and-forty he was freed from disease. This I saw with my own eyes, *jaundiced* as they were, and could not but acknowledge it, for facts are stubborn things. And I now have the pleasure of declaring, that the more experience I have in the practice, the more confidence I have in the remedies, and the more I am amazed at their efficacy in strengthening the vital powers, and expelling disease from the system.

The circumstances of my *conversion*, are not mentioned for your instruction, for I presume we could all tell about one and the same *experience*, but to afford an opportunity to enforce upon you the propriety, nay, the *necessity*, of a feeling of charity toward those who now are, (as we once were,) blind to their best interest.

Although my duty requires nothing from me that is not strictly relating to the practice, yet I feel that it would be *more* difficult for me, unaccustomed to public speaking as I am, successfully to communicate my ideas, in any other than my own way. I hope, therefore, that while I am engaged in a vain attempt, perhaps, to instruct others, who may be better qualified to instruct me, you will continue to indulge me, although I may occasionally seem to wander from the subject.

I will here remark, that in my view, the knowledge of a *correct theory*, is so essentially necessary, to enable one to pursue a *correct practice*; that they are of necessity, and must remain, inseparably connected:

I have frequently heard it remarked, and that too by professed Thomsonians, that they had no doubt but Thomson's system would yet be greatly improved. I am always surprised to hear such declarations from Thomsonians. I conceive that it would be equally rational and consistent to say, that the science of *arithmetic* may yet be so improved, as that two and two shall make five, six or eight, and not four.

That the Thomsonian theory is *true*, all Thomsonians at once admit; and that it is a *unit*, even its most inveterate enemies cannot deny. Those two points being admitted, then, viz. its *truth* and *unity*, I would ask, how is it to be improved? Will you make truth *more* than true, and one *more* than one? I think we have a fair solution to these queries, in the mongrel productions of a Smith, a Beach, a Howard, a Day, and a host of others, who have pushed their piracies upon the rightful property, and hard-earned fame, of the immortal THOMSON, to the full extent of their several abilities.

I will venture the assertion, that the Thomsonian system *cannot be improved*. And with regard to the remedies, I must say, that a ten years' practice has rendered me almost a confirmed sceptic on that head.

The Thomsonian Practice, then, is based on this simple, this easily expressed, this *eternal* foundation principle, viz. *HEAT IS LIFE, AND COLD IS DEATH*. (I trust that all Thomsonians understand in what sense we adopt these terms.*) In all our attempts to remove disease from the system, this foundation principle must be steadily kept in view. Lose sight of this your polar star but for a moment, and your frail bark is on the ocean of conjecture, without compass or rudder. Whatever form disease may assume, be assured that cold is the cause, and consequently inaction and obstruction, either local or general, is the effect. Cold causes inaction, and Nature, being impeded in her course, struggles to remove the obstructions. This gives rise to disagreeable sensations, pain, sickness, *fever*.

There can be no disease where there are no obstructions; there can be no pain where nature is not active to remove obstructions. And as *heat*, and *nature*, are synonymous terms with us Thomsonians, it follows, that the more *heat* and *pain* there is in a diseased system the better, in *one* sense, because the *heat* is an evidence of the *strength* of nature, and *pain* is an evidence that nature is exerting her powers for the removal of obstructions. Thomson expresses all in few words, viz. "The higher the fever runs, the sooner the cold will be subdued."

One peculiar form of disease, which I have seen manifested only with infants, has perplexed me more than all others. From the peculiar circumstances and symptoms of those cases, I was formerly led to *suppose*, that some natural

defect, some organic derangement, *something* beyond the reach of medicine or art, was at the bottom of the difficulty. I dissected one of my own children, with all that searching anxiety of mind, which a parent *only* can feel, but gained nothing. I have since treated four attacks of the same form of disease, in three different subjects, with success. And I now feel a pleasure in declaring, that I attribute my success *wholly* to my undeviating adherence to our foundation principle. I am satisfied, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the cause of the difficulty was cold. If cold, then, is the foundation or proximate cause of *all* disease, what should be the first effort of the practitioner? *Surely*, to expel it by its opposite, *heat*. Such articles, therefore, as have an invariable tendency, from their inherent principle, to stimulate nature, or the vital principle, to action, to rouse her nearly dormant energies, and, as it were, to replenish the lamp of life with *their* oil, are the articles *always* wanted in the commencement of our attacks upon disease. Such articles, possessing such a principle, we have in the different preparations and combinations of Nos. 1 and 2. Have any other articles yet been discovered, better adapted for this purpose? If so, I freely acknowledge myself ignorant of their existence. Indeed, I seriously doubt whether any such do exist.

After raising and equalizing the heat, as far as practicable, what is next to be done? Use such articles as from their inherent principles, have an invariable tendency to loosen and dislodge all cankerous, morbid matter, so that the natural action of the organs, got up by, and in consequence of the heat, may expel it by all the natural outlets of the body. Have you any articles for this purpose, superior, or even equal to those of Dr. Thomson, classed under the head of Nos. 1 and 3? I have not.

What next? Let this process be repeated, or rather continued, until the system is so far relieved from the accumulated mass of obstructing and offending matter, that nature can perform her operations, without any serious impediment.

After raising sufficient heat, and so far clearing the machine of obstructing and offending matter, as that the wheels of life may move with some degree of freedom, our next object should be, to tone, to brace up, to *strengthen* the muscular fibres. Here is an office for the different articles, classed under the head of No. 4, to perform. And well satisfied am I, that those recommended by Dr. Thomson are adequate for the purpose, if properly selected, and judiciously applied. The practitioner who is deficient of a thorough knowledge of this class of remedies, or of judgment in their administration, is deficient in that peculiar point, which, above *all others*, is of the greatest importance to his patients. A very little information, or insight into the Thomsonian practice, will enable a person of common strength of mind, to go through with the practical part of what we un-

* Dr. Platt does not, of course, mean to be understood, that heat is life, in the abstract, in man, any more than in the slacking of lime; but as heat is essential to the life of all warm-blooded animals, and as cold produces death, he will be sufficiently understood, when he uses the language of Dr. Thomson, and says, that "Heat is life, and cold is death:" the quibbling of the hair-splitting gentry, who, with all their metaphysical subtleties, cannot make the subject more plain and comprehensible, to the contrary, notwithstanding.—[ED. MANUAL.]

derstand by—a thorough course of medicine. But, to gain a victory over disease by a well-conducted course of medicine, is *one thing*, and to *retain* the victory, and reap the full profit of it, is quite *another thing*. I am well satisfied that practitioners are more generally deficient in this point, than all others. Nature presents but *one* avenue, through which we may enter to assist her in her endeavors to restore the lost energies of the system; and that is, by the digestive organs. You have expelled the cold, you have cleared the system of obstructions, and now Nature, spent and exhausted, claims your fostering care, and proffered assistance, to restore her consumed energies. By a proper application of the different articles under the head of Nos. 4, 5, 6, nerve powder, &c., you act specifically upon the digestive organs, stimulating them to a gentle healthy action, by which means the nutritious part of the food, when properly prepared, passes directly into the blood, replenishing that vital fluid that carries nourishment to every part, where it is deposited, assimilates and becomes flesh. At the same time, and by the same process, the grosser or earthy part is carried along the alimentary canal, and passes off by natural dejection.

I will recapitulate. No. 1, of THOMSON'S EMETIC. A full knowledge of the *invariable* tendency and effects of this little modest plant, and the extent of its friendly power, I conceive to be the fulcrum, which *now* supports the mighty lever that is to overturn the present medical world. For all other individual articles in the different classes, there are *substitutes*, by means of which, we may, by a little manoeuvring, a little extra exertion, get along without any material difficulty. But for *this* there is no substitute, no equal, nothing that even *approaches* an equality, it stands alone and without a rival.

The practitioner who *knows*, and whose mind is so far freed from the shackles of ignorance, imposed upon it by the ignorance of *learned doctors*, as to enable him to use this MEDICINE with that firm, undoubting reliance on its almost unlimited extent of friendly power, is truly prepared to deal out death-blows to the hydra, disease. The fond mother, who has this medicine, this knowledge, and this confidence, will never see her darling babe expiring in the agonizing struggles of the suffocating croup. Not only in this form of disease, but in almost every other, she finds herself freed from many, very many distressing cares, painful anxieties, and tedious watchings, with which she cannot but observe that her less fortunate neighbors are afflicted. Being the finest, most subtle, and penetrating article in nature, (as I believe,) always acting in unison with the sustaining principle of life, it of course *must* act in opposition to the principle of death, in whatever form, or from whatever source it may assail us, and is, therefore, a counter-poison, whether that poison is the *vegetable* miasma of the *marsh*, the *mineral* poison of DRUG-SHOPS, or the *animal* poison of the *mil-dog*.

No. 2. This quality, or principle, is found in its highest perfection, in the unmixed, undiluted, ripe African Cayenne. This will raise the heat the quickest, (with the exception of No. 1,) the highest, and maintain it the longest, of any article yet known; consequently is the best for that purpose. But do not suppose that you can raise the heat so high as to either burst or burn out your animal boiler. No, my friends; this idea, again, is only the effect of learned ignorance, spurred on by mortified pride and self-interest. Give it in ounce doses, to a perfectly healthy, vigorous subject, and you will neither burn him up, inflict any injury upon the stomach and bowels, nor even give him pain. Cayenne does not contain a stimulating principle that is, in its nature, higher than the natural heat in a healthy, vigorous subject; consequently, when you raise the heat to that pitch with cayenne, you bring it to a level with the fountain-head, and can go no higher. The fountain cannot force the stream above its level. And when our enemies assert that it is *eating, blistering, corroding*, &c., we unhesitatingly declare, that either ignorance or dishonesty prompts the assertion. When put into the most angry or tender sore, *we know* that it allays inflammation, removes soreness, and causes a healthy appearance and a healthy discharge.

No. 3. I am well satisfied, that for *general* use, this quality is to be found the strongest and best, in good bayberry. Yet it is to be found in a greater or less degree, in almost every vegetable production. As canker is a prevailing difficulty in every form of disease, so its antidote prevails in every clime and country. Some articles, containing this quality, also contain a drying, binding quality, which render them rather uncertain means in the hands of the inexperienced and unobserving; nevertheless, let Thomson's teaching be strictly followed, and all will go well. Let the No. 2 be used so as to produce a continual moisture in the mouth and throat, and the canker medicine will effect its legitimate object. Although the bayberry is the best, for *general* use, yet I wish it understood, that in *particular cases*, there are some articles that seem to, and evidently do exert a more happy and salutary influence than others. Among these, I cannot omit to mention the raspberry. Simply a *strong* tea of this, sweetened, either with or without a little milk, fed freely to infants and children, with a relax, dysentery, or other stomach and bowel complaints, will, nine times out of ten at least, appear to those unacquainted with its operation, more like fabled magic, than the unerring laws of cause and effect. And let not the mature female forget to use this simple article, with the addition of a little No. 2 and Nerve Powder, in the approaching hour of her greatest affliction. It merely exerts a more soothing, happy influence, in those cases, than any other article I have ever administered.

The principles contained in these, our three

first numbers, are for the removal of disease; the balance are, strictly speaking, restoratives and palliatives.

No. 4. Here, again, we have almost a boundless variety of articles from which to select. The Golden Seal, the Balmomy, the Barberry, and the Poplar, I think are entitled to pre-eminence in this class. Having these, I seldom want for others.

No. 5. This is only a combination of Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

No. 6. This is only a differently modified combination of the same principles—and a most powerful antiseptic. All our medicines are more or less so, but this is justly entitled to the highest rank, for preventing mortification.

Now, my friends, let us remove the covering of mystery, (if it is not already done,) with which quite too many seem willing to hide the real beauties of Thomsonism. Let us reduce Dr. Samuel Thomson's *Materia Medica* to its primitive simplicity, its real reality. Nos. 1, 2, 3,—and 4, if you will,—constitute the whole sum total, the entire catalogue of medicinal principles. The sensible qualities of No. 1, are hot and rough—of No. 2, hot—of No. 3, rough—and of No. 4, bitter. Who cannot be taught to distinguish these different qualities readily, by the taste? And who cannot be taught to understand the ultimate effects which they will each invariably produce, if they produce any? No. 2 will raise a sufficient heat, and consequent action, to put the whole machinery in motion. No. 3 will scrape off and detach the tough, adhesive mucus or cankered matter with which, not only the stomach and lungs; but the whole system, becomes surcharged. And then No. 1 is the grand forcing-pump, to be introduced, no matter in what way, into this "bundle of tubes," to force the offending matter from the centre to the surface, in every direction. Every outlet, every opening, every pore, all, all united in one general vomiting of disease and death.

Now, my friends, where is the mystery, or the need of mystery? Take those three or four principles, as we find them differently combined in nature with different aromatic substances, which give them different flavors, with the nerve powder, and a few other palliatives, and if you possess a good share of ingenuity, you may combine them in as many different forms, and give to them as many different names as you please—and then, I ask, what have you got? Why, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, no more. The whole mystery of the healing art, when ground out into plain English, amounts to just this:—He or she, possessing a goodly share of common sense, of sound judgment, and a faculty for discriminating the operations and effects of the medicines, and prepares the purest and strongest medicine, and administers it the most freely and perseveringly, *is the best fellow*.

I am fully aware of the very vicious circumstances under which practitioners are placed, and feel willing to allow them to plead those

circumstances, in *mitigation* of damages, but no further. I know that the great mass of mankind have been, and still are, most wofully blinded, deceived, and fleeced; and this state of things has continued so long, that it has become the ruling fashion; and now, when one truly honest, comes forward, and tells them that they may, by a little self-exertion, obtain all the really essential knowledge to qualify them to take care of themselves and families, he is looked upon as being a fool, a knave, and a villain. The cry of *mad-dog* is raised against him, and in fact he is justly entitled to excommunication, as was Galileo, for attempting to promulgate the *pernicious heresy*, that this earth was round, and revolved around its own axis. That man who has the disposition, and is the most successful in burying his *pretended* knowledge deep in mystery, is sure to fill his pockets in proportion to the mysteriousness of his mysteries. Therefore, if dollars and cents alone are the object, let him multiply his *pills*, his *powders*, his *syrups*, his *drops*, his *cordials*, his *liniments*, &c. &c.—run up his numbers to fifty or an hundred, be careful not to give his *valuable* recipes to any one, write out his prescriptions very precise, be particular about the time, give one drop from this phial, and two from that at such a minute, a tea-spoonful of syrup from this bottle, and a table-spoonful from that at such a time, give so much of the powders from this paper at such a time, and so much from that at such a time,—do n't deviate a hair, the case is a very critical one—no one but himself understands how to treat it, and so on. At length, the patient recovers, and the doctor is lauded to the skies for his *wonderful skill*!

Now, let us take a peep behind the curtain, and see what this wonderful doctor has in reality done. Why, if he uses nothing but Thomsonian medicines, which I should much doubt, he has actually given a little Nos. 2, 3 and 4,—and possibly a little No. 1,—and but *very little*, either, for that would work entirely too fast for his purpose:

Now this is *no fiction*. We all know that there are Thomsonian quacks, as well as Calomel quacks; and I, for one, have more charity for the latter, than for the former. The calomel quack goes according to the authorities which he studies in his colleges, his schools, and his medical books, and which he is taught to respect. While the Thomsonian quack runs counter to his authorities, his own judgment, and his actual knowledge: He pretends, when he thinks it for his interest, that he takes a medium course, and hangs on to the skirts of *both* practices; that is, he believes the earth to be *both flat and round*. All seem too willing to act on the *Pindaric* principle, as expressed in the following lines, viz.:

Tickle me, Doctor, tickle me, do,
You tickle me, and I'll tickle you.

Let people learn to place *much less* confidence in skilful doctors, and *much more* confidence in

skilful medicine, and they will get along *much better*.

My friends, I really feel grateful, that you should so patiently submit to follow me through my *mysterious wanderings*, from which I will now endeavor to return.

As you will recollect, I told you what I believed to be the proximate cause of *all* disease, and what remedial agents were best adapted for the removal of both cause and effect. I endeavored to give a general idea of the *why* and *wherefore* we use such articles as we do. But why they should produce the peculiar effect that a long course of experience has proved that they do, and that invariably, I have not attempted to tell you, and for the very best of reasons, viz.: *I do not know*. And I now tell you, that such are the fundamental principles of the Thomsonian Theory and Practice of MEDICINE, in contradistinction to the old, *legal*, rotten and *rotting* Theory and Practice of PHYSIC. One being in direct opposition to the other. The first stimulates and invigorates every organ to perform its natural healthy function, and all the secretions and excretions to move in harmonious order—an even flow of healthy juices from the centre to the surface—the pores open, the capillaries expand, the skin becomes soft and moist—the blood flows warm and free through all its minute channels, freeing the head from an undue pressure, relieving the heart from its laborious efforts to force the blood through the cold, contracted channels, and bringing ease and comfort to poor distressed mortals. While the latter, aiming a death-blow at the very principle of life, draws out the vital fluid—lets down the heat—increases the contraction—silences the digestive organs—draws the determining powers from the surface to the centre—fastens the canker upon the stomach, bowels, and other internal organs—ulcerates not only the flesh but even the very bones and marrow—paralyzes limbs—shatters constitutions—unstrings the nervous system, deranging the organs of the mind, until poor, deluded, ignorant mortals, become objects of pity, of loathing, and of dread.

Is this picture too highly colored? Alas, my friends, the variously mutilated beings whom we daily behold, speak a language that cannot be misunderstood by those who have their eyes freed from the scales of a truly awful delusion.

I know that in *theory*, the word *physic*, in its broad sense, is applied to all the modes and means used for the removal of disease. I also know, that in *practice*, *physic* and *medicine* act upon opposite principles. (I speak *now* in accordance with the common acceptance of the term *physic*.) *Physic* having an invariable tendency to let down the internal vital heat and energy of the system, derange the digestive organs, debilitate the bowels, and increase the canker. While *medicine*, or those vegetable substances only, which ought ever to bear that name, have an invariable tendency to increase the vital heat, regulate the digestive functions,

strengthen the bowels, and remove the canker. *Physic*, no matter how mild, or slow in its operation, or how minute the portion in a given quantity of medicine, its principle remains the same, and if it acts at all, acts in direct opposition to its opposite, the principle of life.

Perhaps some of my brethren may think me too severe on this point. I hope not, however. The capacity in which I have acted for more than ten years past, has made me in some measure acquainted with the evils of the practice of giving *physic*. And now, having been appointed to preach, I have only to say, “wo be unto me if I preach not” what I conceive to be the truth.

I have frequently been told by *professed* Thomsonian practitioners, that they often give *physic*, but that they always give a sufficient quantity of *medicine* to counteract its effects. What an acknowledgment! A full acknowledgment that it acts on a wrong principle, and a virtual acknowledgment that they know it to be wrong, else *why* say they give medicine to counteract its effects? Do they wish to counteract *good* effects? None will acknowledge such an absurdity. Then why *practice* such absurdity? I esteem it as the very essence of that quackery which we so much affect to despise in others. Let us be consistent. Let us *practice* the Thomsonian system, or else cease to preach it. If it is *not* adequate for all the varied forms of disease, let us declare it, that the credit may go where it belongs. If it *is* adequate, and we still continue to give *physic*, let us say that we do so because it is more profitable to us, and not because we consult the best good of our patients.

I will again declare, that I believe the Thomsonian system perfect. And where I am unsuccessful, I attribute the failure, either to my own inability to adopt the practice to the peculiarities of the case, or, to the exhausted, or diseased, or unfavorable condition of the patient, who is thereby placed beyond the salutary influence of *any* means.

I will repeat, I hope none will be offended at my plain dealing. As a lecturer, I conceive that I should deviate from my duty, if I suffered what I conceive to be an abuse of the practice, to pass without raising my warning voice against it. That I endeavor to let obedience keep pace with my knowledge in the Thomsonian Practice, I believe all who know me will admit, however much they may pity me for my *lack of knowledge*. Let us all be sensible that we are liable to err. I know that I am so, and always feel grateful to those who give me truth for error, or *endeavor* to do so by their friendly counsel, advice or admonition.

To those of you who are parents, I would say, consider well the responsibility that rests upon you. Exert yourselves to give your children a full and complete knowledge of the greatest of blessings, viz.: a knowledge of the best mode and means for the prevention and cure of disease.

To each mother, I would say, it is *your* duty to endeavor to give your daughters that knowledge of *themselves* and their peculiar forms of disease, as shall free them from the necessity of submitting themselves to the licentious gaze and officious handling of those who, too often handle but to ruin. Teach them to know themselves, and they will then, at least, be able at once to detect any offered abuse. My observation has fully confirmed me in the belief, that mothers have been most shamefully negligent of this part of their duty.

To my young sisters, I would say, think not through ignorance to escape imposition. Embrace every proper opportunity to gain a knowledge of yourselves, before you shall be *compelled* to gain it, perhaps, by a most disastrous and dear-bought experience. Learn to distinguish between *true* and *false* modesty. Call *not* that modesty, which would prompt you to shun a sister in distress, when the circumstances of the case are such as to need your friendly aid, and soothing voice. Fear not to do good. Fear not the finger of scorn that is raised for the performance of a good action. It will only *raise* you in the estimation of the *truly* virtuous, by publishing your good deeds.

To *all* I will say, strive to outdo each other in acquiring and disseminating a knowledge of the **TRUE THOMSONIAN THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.**

[Original.]

DR. PATTEN'S REPORTS OF CASES.

[Continued from our last.]

On the 1st of May, 1836, I had a patient who had injured her hip. She had been attended by one of the regulars previous to coming to me, who prescribed his delicate! and health-restoring! remedies for about a week, and then said he thought it not necessary to call again. His patient grew worse, and the doctor was again summoned; gave more medicine, and performed the highly judicious and scientific operation of taking away a pint of blood. He did not know exactly what the complaint was; thought the kidneys were affected. He seemed to be totally ignorant of her case, and it is said he has since told that it proceeded from a "natural" cause. She had turns of great faintness, to relieve which, ether was administered. And then—Oh, shout for the immaculate sons of "science"—the patient was declared to be **PARTURIENT**: When she was brought to me, she was so weak and helpless, that she could not sit up, and was as much care as a child. She was cured with five courses of medicine, and restoratives:

I will relate a case which occurred in this town some time since. A lady being afflicted with ague in the face, her husband called upon the doctor to prescribe something that would give her relief. He put up some laudanum, in which he put some kind of mercurial prepara-

tion—this he directed to be applied to the cheek externally, on cotton wool, which was to be kept moist with the liquid. She applied it in the evening, and on the following morning four of her teeth dropped out, owing probably to the mercury being absorbed by the patient through the pores. Her husband accused the doctor of administering oil of mercury, which he denied. The denial not giving entire satisfaction, the gentleman took the liquid to a physician residing in a neighboring town, who said that there was mercury in it. Which lied? * Were it not for the infallibility of a diploma, the physician above alluded to would be denominated a quack. Had the same thing been done by a Thomsonian, it would have been blown far and wide, and had ought to have been. But such, and even worse things, are so common amongst the regulars, that they pass by us as the idle wind, which we heed not.

I had one case of a man taken with inflammation of the kidneys. He had been attended about three weeks, by some of the most eminent physicians of Lynn, Salem, and Marblehead; and at that time the inflammation pervaded his whole system. His treatment had been bleeding, blistering, physicing, injections of spirits of turpentine and other articles. His intestines; at the time I commenced, were in a perfectly raw state, and it was one week before I succeeded in relieving him in this respect. I made a free use of poultices, with hot and canker medicines internally, and hot baths continually; for two or three days. There were a great number of holes or cavities on his bowels, from which I had extracted the flies which had been used in his blisters; and in every instance, they were accompanied with blood. He was so much puffed up, or swollen, when I first saw him, that it was almost impossible for him to breathe. He was in such distress, that he requested one of his doctors, if he could not give him something to relieve him, to at least give him something to end his sufferings. The doctor turned round, poured out a quantity of laudanum, and without saying a word, immediately left the house. One of his physicians, who had attended him about a week, after he had been given over and I had commenced with him, said, in no very polite or gentlemanly manner, that I had 'stolen one of his patients, just as he was in a fair way of recovery.' But the patient was satisfied, and there is every reason

* The physician might deny that he prescribed "oil of mercury," without lying; but had he denied that he prescribed mercury in *some* form, he would not have been entitled to belief, in consequence of the effects produced by the medicine—even setting aside the assurance of the druggist by whom it was subsequently examined. But, putting the best face on the matter we can, it is evident that he *intended* to *deceive* the man, and to make him believe that no mercury had been prescribed—which is, virtually, lying.—ED. MANUAL.

to believe, that, had not the patient been "stolen" from him, by some one capable of giving relief, death would soon have closed his sufferings, for when I took charge of him, he had been given over by five physicians. Whilst going through his courses, I could distinguish, in what was ejected from his stomach, as many as five or six different kinds of medicines, and pills undissolved. I had attended him about a week, and got him along so much that he was able to eat chicken broth, and other nourishing articles, and was in a fair way of speedy recovery. A Beechite, who had been sent for about the time I first commenced, but who had not before dared to give anything, told me he thought I was getting him along too fast,—it is rather a difficult case,—and you had not better press it too much, but let it work out. As much as to say, make a long job of it, and charge accordingly. However, after I had got the man along, as above described, this Beechite, or mongrel, influenced the patient's wife so much as to induce her to allow him to give some medicine. When I again called, I noticed a change, and ascertaining the cause, took my medicines and left the house—observing, that I thought one physician enough. The patient was soon run down as low as when I first took him. Then came my turn again; and I again relieved him, so that he is now well, and thanks me for twice saving his life. Let people beware of mongrel Thomsonians! Their lives may else pay the forfeit.

Case of Dyspepsia, with a severe pain in the left breast. It seemed to the patient that there was something in her breast about the size of a hen's egg. She had had about a dozen physicians, but they could give her no relief. I gave her two courses, and she was cured. She stated that the first course did not have the least effect upon the bunch in her breast; but at the second course, she felt the medicine operate all around it, which occasioned great distress for several minutes, when it seemed to go off; she vomited, and has not been troubled with it since.

JOHN R. PATTEN, T. B. P.

Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson.

Lynn, Mass., 1837.

[Original.]

CASE OF STRANGURY.

MR. EDITOR,—Will you have the goodness to give the following certificate a place in your useful journal, as one proof among many, that the "Thomsonian system" can be rendered auxiliary to the preservation of life against the most virulent attack of diseases that have baffled the boasted scientific skill of the *mineral poisoner*. As regards the individual who signed the certificate, the writer of this has lately seen and conversed with him upon the subject, and received the assurance that the cure was complete and perfect; and no doubt is felt, either by him, or his connections, that he is solely

indebted for his life to the judicious treatment of Dr. Watkins. Speak of this cure before one of the "faculty," and he is attacked with a "dumb spirit," and hastens to "pass by on the other side," reflecting "verily, our craft is in danger." [*]

Dover, April 15th, 1837. *

CERTIFICATE.

I, Lewis Colbath, of Dover, N. H., hereby certify, that on the morning of the 22d of February last, I was taken with a very violent and excruciating pain in the lower part of the abdomen. The pain increasing in a most torturing degree whenever I had an inclination for a discharge of urine, which I was unable to effect, in consequence of the intenseness of my suffering. This inclination so frequently occurred, and the pain so much increased, that I became alarmed for my safety, and was advised to drink gin and other things, which I did through the day, but without experiencing any relief. In the evening, I was told that my complaint was the *strangury*, and was advised to go to Dr. A. Watkins's Infirmary, but was deterred from so doing, in consequence of false stories, &c.; nor was I willing to trust myself in the hands of the "regular faculty," as a very robust and healthy man of this town having been recently attacked with the same complaint, breathed his last within 48 hours after calling in the *faculty* for advice and assistance. I therefore remained without any medical aid, until the dead hour of the night, when my brother, with others, insisted upon carrying me to the Infirmary, which they immediately did, and committed me to the care of Dr. Andrew Watkins, the proprietor, by whom I was in three hours entirely relieved of my distress, and the next day I returned home as well as ever I was; and, in my belief, I owe my life to the judicious treatment I received at said Infirmary.

(Signed)

LEWIS COLBATH.

Dover, N. H., March 9th, 1837.

* Our correspondent should have sent us his name, as we have adopted the rule to admit no communications, purporting to be a statement of facts, unless we feel perfectly assured that they come from a responsible source. We have departed from our rule in the present instance, because we had been previously made acquainted with the facts; and we can assure our readers that the statement is correct. It is necessary for us to be thus particular, in order to guard against imposition; and we presume that none of our correspondents will be unwilling to send us their names, although if they request it, we will suppress them from the pages of the Manual. Our readers can see, therefore, that they can place implicit reliance upon any statement of facts which we publish, whether the communication appears with or without the real signature of the writer; yet we must confess it gives

a communication a greater degree of importance to have a proper name attached to it, than an anonymous one. Our friends will bear these remarks in mind, but they must not be induced to suspend their contributions, because we are glad to receive them, even if the writers wish them to appear in the Manual anonymously.—ED. MANUAL.

☞ The Thomsonian Recorder comes to us filled with useful, interesting and instructive matter, most of which we would gladly transfer to the pages of the Manual, had we room. We have marked a number of articles for insertion, and shall lay them before our readers at the earliest opportunity. But as our attention must necessarily be devoted, in a great measure, to local affairs, we unqualifiedly recommend the Recorder to the patronage of our friends, and the Thomsonian public generally. It is an able and fearless advocate in the cause; and the friends of Thomsonism should have that as well as the Manual; we feel the utmost confidence in saying that they would never regret the patronage thus bestowed. From the Recorder of May 6, we copy the following interesting communication:

SIR: It was some time since stated by Dr. Draper, of this city, that nothing less than a *medical revolution* would save the people from the impositions of the regulars, and raise the standard of Thomsonism beyond the reach of the whole tribe of mongrel reformers. That this is to be the watch-word of all who wish to promulgate Thomsonism in its purity, is, I think, about being realized. Thomsonians in this part of our country, have long since noticed the manly firmness and decided stand you have taken in support of those immutable principles of scientific medicine, handed to us by that illustrious "*professor*," Dr. Samuel Thomson. (To the name of Professor he is justly entitled—he has taught us doctrines which enable us to conquer disease in a twinkling of an eye; aye, before the first dose of physic administered by a *regular* had operated, a change for the better would have taken place, under the salutary influence of Thomsonian medicines.)

The opposition you take in regard to the use of "*quack medicines*," and the exposition of cases treated upon pure Thomsonian principles, will elevate you in the esteem of the benevolent at heart, and gain for yourself the high gratification of being the means of introducing amongst "*the people*" a system by which they can at all times and under all circumstances, relieve themselves of all the various maladies to which mankind are liable. While on the subject of promulgating Thomsonism in its purity, I am proud to say that Philadelphia, the great strong hold of the regular craft—Philadelphia

can now boast of a faithful and fearless champion in this great and holy cause. Since Dr. Draper has espoused the cause, the ranks of the faculty have been most powerfully shaken. His high standing as a physician, his connection with the press of our city, and his great popularity as a public speaker, give him advantages of which the interested and bigotted may well be jealous. All these he has, with an honesty of purpose seldom equalled, brought into the support of those new principles which regulate the Thomsonian Practice. The Doctor has recently finished a short course of lectures (of which you have seen an account in the public papers) that has achieved for the Thomsonian family of this city a victory—a triumphant victory, over the combined forces of legalized *quacks*, and the whole tribe of poison nostrum-mongers. Perhaps a short account would be interesting to your readers.

After the Doctor had returned from his eastern tour, it was thought advisable, as some excitement still existed among the people, to obtain his services for three successive evenings, for the purpose of lecturing. A house was obtained, and general notice given, through the medium of the press, and handbill form, for "*the people*" to come and obtain medical knowledge for themselves. It being a very popular place, all classes were invited. The two colleges of this city now being in session, a large number of students it was expected would attend, and in this we were not disappointed. The people turned out *en masse*; never was there such a universal desire on any occasion of the kind before. The Doctor went through the history of the rise and progress and present standing of the practice denominated the regular system. He portrayed it in its true colors, and carried convincing proof to the mind of every candid hearer, that *darkness, hypothesis and error* have characterized the various conflicting theories that have arisen, had their day of glory, and gone. He reprehended the practice of bleeding, in a most powerful and feeling manner. "I am going," said the doctor, "to touch a solemn subject—a subject that will make the heart-strings of every one in this assembly vibrate." A solemn silence filled the hall. "Take," says he, "the strongest man in this assembly, the broad expanded chest, the sonorous voice, the full developed muscle—take from such an individual eighty ounces of blood! administer three doses of calomel! and six grains of tartar emetic! in the space of twenty-four hours!! in what condition would you expect to find him? Such was the treatment," said he, "of the immortal Washington! He who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, was thus treated the first twenty-four hours of his illness. After he had passed through the struggles and privations of the Revolution, and the stormy blasts of three-score winters had passed over his head, to be thus *murdered*, to say the least of it, is a matter of no small magnitude." The feelings

of the audience were raised to the highest pitch ; all was as silent as death, when, as if by general impulse, the audience gave vent to their feelings, and all

For the war-worn veteran dropped a tear .

All were sad, silent, and sincere.

With respect, I remain yours, &c.,

A. WEEKS, T. B. P.

Philadelphia, Dec. 25, 1836.

☞ We copy the following excellent article from the "Botanic Luminary," a periodical published at Saline, (Mich.) and devoted to the cause of Thomsonism.

Extract from the writings of the Rev. JOHN WESLEY, an eminent physician.

The healing art was first brought into use in a very natural and simple manner. In the earliest age of the world, mankind, by various experiments or accidents, discovered that certain plants, roots, and barks, possessed medicinal properties. These were found sufficient to remove diseases. The application of these remedies was plain and easy ; but in process of time, they began to make a profession of medicine, and to strip it of its simplicity ; they began to inquire into the operation of such remedies, why and how they performed such cures ; they examined the human frame and all its parts ; the nature of the flesh, arteries and nerves ; the structure of the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, bowels, &c., with the springs of the several animal functions. They explored the several kinds of animal and mineral, as well as vegetable substances. And hence the whole order of physic was subverted, and founded upon hypothesis ; they formed theories of diseases, and their cures ; and substituted these in place of experiments.

As theories increased ; simple medicines were more and more discarded, and disused ; till in a course of years, the greater part of them were forgotten, at least in the more polite nations. In the room of those, abundance of these were introduced, by reasoning, speculative men ; and those more and more difficult to be applied, as being more remote from common observation. Hence rules for the application of these and medical books were immediately multiplied ; till at length physic became an abstruse science, quite out of the reach of ordinary men.

Physicians now began to be held in admiration, as persons who were something more than human. And profit attended their employ as well as honor. So now they had two weighty reasons for keeping the bulk of mankind at a distance, that they might not pry into the mysteries of their profession. To this end they increased those difficulties, by design, which were in a manner by accident. They filled their writings with abundance of technical terms utterly unintelligible to plain men. They affected to deliver their rules ; and to reason upon them, in an abstruse and philosophical manner.

They represented the critical knowledge of anatomy, natural philosophy, (and what not ?) Some of them insisting on that of astronomy, and astrology too, as necessary to the understanding the art of healing.

Those who understood *only how to restore the sick to health*, they branded with the name of *Empirics*. They introduced into practice abundance of compound medicines, consisting of so many ingredients that it was scarce possible for common people to know which it was that wrought a cure. Abundance of exotics, neither the nature nor names of which their own country understood. Of chemicals, such as they neither had skill nor fortune, nor time to prepare : Yea, and of *dangerous ones*, such as they could not use without hazarding life, but by the advice of a physician. And thus, both their honor and gain were secured, a vast majority of mankind being utterly cut off from helping either themselves or their neighbors ; or once daring to attempt it. Yet there has been from time to time, some lovers of mankind, who have endeavored, (even contrary to their own interests,) to reduce physic to its ancient standard ; who have labored to explode out of it all hypothesis, and fine spun theories ; and to make it a plain, intelligible thing, as it was in the beginning, having no more mystery in it than this, "such a medicine removes such a pain." These have demonstrably shown, that neither the knowledge of astrology, astronomy, natural philosophy, nor even anatomy itself, is absolutely necessary to the quick and effectual cure of most diseases incident to the human body. Nor yet any chemical or exotic or compound medicine, but a simple plant or root duly applied, so that every man of common sense (in ordinary cases) may prescribe to himself or his neighbors, and may be very secure from doing harm, even where he can do no good. Even in the last age, there was something of this kind done, particularly by Dr. Sydenham ;* and in the present, by his pupil, Dr. Dover, who has pointed out simple medicines for many diseases—and some such may be found in the writings of the learned and ingenious Dr. Cheyne, who doubtless would have communicated many more to the world, but for the melancholy reason he gave one of his friends, who pressed him with some passages in his works, which too much countenanced the modern practice,—“O, sir, we must do something to oblige the faculty, or they will tear us to pieces.”

* Whatever benefits may have been derived from any simple medicines introduced into practice by Sydenham, the good has been more than counterbalanced by the evils resulting from the use of the lancet, which he also introduced. The union of the lancet of Sydenham, with the minerals of Paracelsus, have proved the greatest plague which has ever afflicted the inhabitants of the earth ; and better would it have been, had they never existed.—
ED. MANUAL.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton*.

BOSTON, JUNE 15, 1837.

☞ WHAT WE WANT.—More subscribers, and those we have to pay up. "IN ADVANCE" is *intended* to signify prior to, or on the reception of the first number of the volume.

☞ Any duly authorised agent of Dr. Thomson, whose name is omitted from our published list, shall have it inserted on notifying us of the fact. It is for their interest as well as our convenience, to have a complete list.

LECTURE AT DANVERS.

We have not had time or room, in the last numbers of the Manual, to continue to give a detailed account of the lectures on Thomsonism, which we commenced in our February number. But we shall occasionally lay before our readers such matters as we deem of sufficient importance, which those lectures were the means of drawing forth. On the occasion of the third lecture at Danvers, Dr. Thomson being present, addressed the audience at its close. The following, as near as we can recollect, contains the substance of his remarks; as we took no notes at the time, we are obliged to trust entirely to memory, yet so fully were the ideas which he advanced impressed upon our mind, that we feel confident the following is a correct synopsis of them. We consider his explication of the subject—which, for the sake of having it better understood, we have brought under the head of a distinct proposition—the most correct and rational one which we have ever heard.

WHY PEOPLE DIE OF CONSUMPTION IN THE
SPRING AND FALL, MORE FREQUENTLY THAN
AT OTHER SEASONS OF THE YEAR.

It is generally known, that people in a consumption very frequently die in the spring, when the leaves are putting forth, and in the fall, when the leaves are falling. The cause of

this has never been satisfactorily explained to us, until we heard the exposition which Dr. Thomson has given.

We are not disposed to adopt a theory, coming from Dr. Thomson, or any one else, *merely* because it proceeds from this or that particular source. Yet when such a theory accords with our own views in its general outline, the fact of its proceeding from such high authority as the venerable founder of the Botanic System, most certainly attaches to it a greater degree of importance.

It has been observed, that if a consumptive person lives through the spring, and until warm weather has pretty well advanced, they will continue to live until fall, although they may be in a very low and feeble state. And, also, if they live through the fall, and until cold weather has set in, they may continue to live until the following spring.

It has also been observed, that, in the fall, they frequently die at the time of the first snow-storm; and, in the spring, on the first warm day; although apparently there had been no change in their general health, at either period, prior to their death, and they seem to expire without a struggle, as if the vital spark had been almost imperceptibly extinguished. From this singular fact, has probably arisen one great difficulty in explaining the cause of this remarkable phenomena. And this difficulty has been increased by the very cause which originated it, which was, the supposition that the effect, which was both seen and known, must have proceeded from *two* different causes—when, in fact, it proceeds but from one and the same cause. That is, the fact that consumptive persons die in the spring, was attributed to one cause; and their dying at an opposite period in the fall, to another. And almost as many different reasons have been given, to account for the fact, as there have been persons who have investigated, or endeavored to explain the matter.

Now, Dr. Thomson gives, as a reason why death terminates the existence of consumptive persons in the spring, that they, being weak and feeble, have lost, during the continuance of cold weather, a portion of their heat—internal, vital heat, or life. They have probably but little appetite, and are not able to take sufficient food, air and exercise, to increase the vital heat and natural powers of the body in an equal ratio

with the increase of hot weather. Hence, the heat of the atmosphere, on a warm day, is as great as the heat of their bodies; and consequently produces a balance of power, and a collapse of the lungs immediately takes place. That is, they have no longer heat enough in the body, to continue the process of breathing. Now this collapse of the lungs, although not generally understood, may be easily explained. We frequently hear the faculty speak of the collapse stage of cholera—we hear an engineer speak of the collapse of the boiler of a steam-engine—yet there are but few who understand what this term “collapse” really implies. The common people are willing to suppose that it is one of the “mysteries,” known only to the “learned” physician; and, therefore, with blind and stupid confidence, they allow him to fool away their health, their substance, and their lives. But, as we before said, the subject may be easily explained. There is scarcely any person who has not experienced this “collapse.” For instance, place a person facing a cold north-west wind. He is unable to breathe, and is compelled to turn his face frequently into the eddy, in order to get breath. There is not heat enough in the body to keep up the operation of breathing against such odds. Now, were a person placed directly facing this wind, without the ability to turn his head, so as to avoid its direct influence, it must be very apparent to all, that he could not long breathe. This is a collapse of the lungs. The vital heat is overpowered by cold, in this case, as well as in the collapse stage of cholera, &c.; and the same effect would be produced by too great external heat, as by too great external cold; the vital functions, in both cases, are overpowered.

Again: A person in a declining state of health, does not absorb caloric or heat enough, to increase the living powers of the body in an equal proportion with the increase of warm weather. And, indeed, many who are apparently in perfect health, are more oppressed on a moderately warm day in the spring, than in the hottest days of summer. If a healthy person is so oppressed, it must necessarily follow, that one who is not so, will be much more oppressed.

Another very familiar illustration may be given. It has doubtless been observed, that an ox, when ploughing, or otherwise employed, will loll and stagger, and very frequently die on

a warm day in spring, when the same animal would not be at all affected in that way, on a much warmer day in the month of July or August. It has sometimes been said, when animals, (and even men), have died under such circumstances, that they were melted—although there might not have been an ounce of tallow in them at the time! The idea of melting is altogether a mistaken notion. The truth is, a balance of power had taken place; the external heat was as great, or greater, than the internal; and it was therefore impossible for the lungs to expand. In such a case, let a good portion of cayenne, or some other powerful stimulant, be given, and relief would be instantaneously received.

But, should the consumptive person absorb caloric enough to preserve life, during the critical period in spring, they will probably continue in very much the same state of health, during the summer, with, most generally, some slight improvement. As the cold approaches, then again comes the critical season. And why critical? Because the body has not absorbed heat enough during the summer, to resist the advances of the cold—and the same “collapse” takes place, from the oppression caused by the cold, that was in the spring occasioned by the oppression produced by heat. It will therefore be perceived, that the diminution of the heat of the body, in both instances, is the cause of the difficulty. On the one hand, it was not sufficient to resist the advances of heat; and on the other, it was not adequate to resist the advances of cold. Of consequence, death inevitably took place.

On this subject, we may, at some future time, say more; but, for the present, we have only to say, that if any one under whose eye the above may fall, can make the point any more plain, we should be glad to have him; and will allow them the use of our pages to do it. The subject is an important one; and well worthy the serious consideration of all, as from it may be deduced most of the causes of sickness, and its being correctly understood will guide to the best means for the preservation and restoration of health.

The Botanic Sentinel says:—“We cannot conceive of any possible circumstances where **PHYSIC** should be given.” Nor can we; yet some *professed* Thomsonians give it after *every* course of medicine. So we are informed.

IMPOSITIONS.

Some one of our friends has recently sent us a couple of handbills—one issued by “Dr. Watson, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh,”—and the other by “Dr. C. W. Rugg, Botanic Physician,”—both bearing date at Newburyport, Mass. Indeed, the good people of that town seem to be most wofully afflicted with quacks; and being so, really deserve to have their eyes opened. It would be an exceedingly difficult matter to tell which of the two above-named individuals is the greatest quack,—judging from their handbills, we should think it would be about a draw-game! Watson commends himself to public patronage *for* being a “member of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh,” and *for* “having pursued his studies in the different Hospitals and Universities of Edinburgh and Aberdeen,” and cures “the most inveterate tooth-ache in a few minutes, without drawing. Price 50 cents per bottle.” Rugg rests his claims upon public patronage on the fact “that he is *not* a pretended member of any Royal College of Physicians,” and “the most inveterate tooth-ache cured in a few minutes by drawing, and sometimes without. Price 25 cents.” Both pretend to use Botanic medicines. Watson “wishes it to be distinctly understood, that there is no Thomsonianism about his method of practice:” but Rugg does not tell us, what he is, or what he is not. He merely says he is a “Botanic Physician,”—and there are so many of this class of non-descriptors about now-a-days, that it is difficult to infer from that what he really is. Watson, also, pretends to be a “Botanic Physician,” for he says: “The advantages he has possessed of acquiring a knowledge of different diseases, and what herbs and plants are best calculated to remove diseases and restore health, have been far greater than generally falls to the lot of an individual.” Very modest, indeed! Rugg advertises a number of his articles, from which it seems that he retails the quackery of any one, from whose nostrums he can derive profit. Watson says, that, “observing the common practice among nostrum-venders, to publish a list of cures which they have performed in different places, begs to observe, that he never did publish a list of cures, as he always found throughout his long career of practice, that a case, though ever so simple, would publish itself; and told by the grateful

invalid, would spread his fame more than fifty puffed cases.” And yet this very modest gentleman publishes a “Report of patients cured and relieved by” him, “without the aid of Bleeding, Blistering, or the use of Mercury,”* to the number of *seven hundred and eighty-seven!!!*—comprising about thirty different kinds of diseases! Rugg does not give the number of his patients, yet he enumerates the diseases he has attended to the number of *forty!*

Both of the handbills evince the most consummate quackery; and we should suppose the public would be at once disgusted at the bare-faced impudence of their authors. But such is not generally the case. The more glaring the imposition, the more readily are the public gulled. If they prefer to be duped, why, in all conscience, let them have their choice! There will always be enough who will take advantage of their folly.

We are induced to believe, that this Dr. Watson is the same person who figured in Boston a short time since, and who pretended that he could tell what was the matter with his patients, by merely putting his hand into the room, and feeling their pulse! If our supposition is correct respecting this individual, we have heard something of his practice here, which should render him a beneficiary for a coat of tar and feathers! As one example from amongst many, one woman whom he attended in this city, and who died under his care, he said was afflicted with the “liver complaint.” Upon a *post mortem* examination of the body, it was found that the liver was *perfectly sound*, and the physicians who opened the body, sent it to Dr. Watson, for his inspection. He made short work of the woman’s life, for, if we recollect aright, he attended only three or four days. Is not this murder?—or man-slaughter, to say the least? Another patient whom he lost, he would not leave, but stayed about the house until the body was interred, fearing that a *post mortem* examination would take place. In both these instances, and a great many others, which have come to our knowledge, both here and at Dover, N. H., this very celebrated Doctor, as he calls *himself*—for nobody ever heard of him, till he blew his own trumpet of fame—promised a *certain cure*, BEFORE he commenced. This fact corroborates a statement in the handbill before us, and induces us to believe, that the Dr. Wat-

* Not use Mercury!—We don’t believe it!

son in Newburyport, is the same one who was in Dover; and, prior to that, in Boston. The handbill says: "It is the Doctor's invariable rule, never to undertake a case, unless he is confident of effecting a cure." And further, "Patients who are incapable, from infirmity, of attending personally upon Dr. W., can, by sending a correct statement of their case, BE TOLD WHETHER THEY ARE CURABLE OR NOT"! This reminds us of a story of a fortune-teller, who could tell, with the most infallible certainty, the past, present and future fortunes of all who were fools enough to send him a letter, stating their age, &c., and enclosing *one dollar*—which imposition is not half so bad as that practised upon the lives and health of community, by these intolerable quacks.

DR. PLATT'S LECTURE.—We commend the lecture of Dr. Platt, which we publish in this number, to the attentive perusal of our readers. We will point out one part of the lecture, which more particularly meets our approbation. It is that, where Dr. P. bears his testimony to the *infallibility*—if we may be allowed the expression—of the Thomsonian system, as originated and perfected by its venerable founder; and condemns the quackeries which have been attempted to be introduced into it. But we refer our readers to the lecture itself; it is an able and interesting paper; and we doubt not the various Botanic journals will cheerfully comply with the request of the "Connecticut Thomsonian Medical Society," to give it an insertion.

PROPOSED CONVENTION IN WORCESTER.—It will be seen, by a reference to the account of the proceedings of the "Conn. Thom. Med. Society," that it is proposed that a Thomsonian Convention be holden at Worcester, of delegates from various sections of the New-England states. That there are many advantages which would be derived from such a Convention, we doubt not; but whether it would, on the whole, be expedient at the present time, we are not prepared to say. By agitating the question *now*, perhaps the object could be accomplished by another year. Not that we are fond of delays; but to have the thing well done, when it is done, is a very important consideration, and to do this will require considerable time and exertion. The *sooner* it can take place, the better; we highly approve the object; and recom-

mend the different Thomsonian Societies to act immediately on the subject. We should be glad to have our friends express their views on this subject.

DO N'T BE FRIGHTENED!—The last Medical and Surgical Journal contains a prize essay from David King, jr., M. D., of Newport, the subject of which is on "*PURPURA HÆMORRHAGICA*," the true name of which, the writer says, is "*APYRETIQUE HEMACELINOSE*." This is no *new disease*, gentle reader; but only the "scientific" name for a very common complaint, which, reduced to vulgar English, would read, "*BLEEDING AT THE NOSE*," "*BLEEDING PILES*," &c.—"*A VIOLENT FLUX OF BLOOD*." Oh, the *foolishness* of the *WISDOM* of man!

☞ We assure the Editor of the Recorder that we highly approve the noble stand he has taken—and the indefatigable exertions he has made—against nostrum-makers, and "*every species of medical tyranny, mystery and concealment*." In our February number may be found the substance of an article on this subject, from the pen of Dr. Curtis. That we have not copied more, is fault not of our will—but local matters have pre-occupied our pages. We *are* on his side—and *will be*—in attempting to put down "*ignorance, mystery, deception and concealment, wherever they may be found; and in scattering all the valuable knowledge—both of medical science and remedial agents—wherever the light of the sun now beams upon the human race*." Nor will we, "*for the sake of filthy lucre, or the friendship of a few nostrum-makers, descend to the contemptible business of recommending or countenancing the sale and use of secret pills and powders*," or anything else that cannot fairly be considered as a part of Thomson's System of Practice, but we will oppose, to the best of our abilities, every species of quackery, mysticism and imposition. This is our stand—and here we may be found by friends or enemies.

☞ We refer our readers to the Prospectus of the third volume of the "*Botanic Sentinel*," which may be found on another page. It will be perceived, that the forth-coming volume will contain the celebrated discussion between Drs. Draper and Sleight, which alone will render it worth the subscription price.

Our friends must not forget—in these hard times, particularly—to pay the postage on their letters. We received one lately, containing one dollar, upon which *twenty cents* postage was charged!—*one fifth* of the money sent! At this rate, we should soon be minus. Please recollect, in future.

As Dr. Platt has left Hartford, Ct., we would ask his successor if he will not interest himself to extend the circulation of the Manual in that quarter?

We omit several articles intended for our present number, to make room for the following interesting communication—interesting, because it demonstrates the onward march of Thomsonism. We hope this courtesy will induce our correspondent to let us hear from him often.

NEWPORT, R. I., May 24th, 1837.

THOMSONISM.

To the Editor of the Manual:

FRIEND CHAPMAN,—This is an *ism* comparatively new to me; but, as the little I have hitherto known of it has been favorable, so have I borne testimony accordingly. That it eschewed mineral and vegetable poisons—the lancet, leeches, etc.—was to me indicative of good sense. I have hailed it as a friend, and wished for its rapid extension.

A few weeks ago, I became acquainted with Dr. Charles Gardner, of the Newport Thomsonian Infirmary. I expressed a wish to become acquainted with Thomsonism and its history. He lent me the "Narrative," and other works, including many Thomsonian periodicals, by which I was very agreeably edified. I read the "Narrative," with mingled emotions of joy, grief, and indignation. I rejoiced "with an exceeding great joy," that the true Physician had made his advent,—that the healing powers of nature were discovered, by which the sick could be made whole,—and that so many aches and pains would be banished, which through time, had sorely afflicted humanity. But I was moved with grief and indignation against the fiendlike ferocity and base ingratitude combined against Dr. Thomson, when his good works were strikingly manifest; and, after the closest scrutiny, it could only be asked, "what hath he done?" But, crucify him, crucify him—no good can come out of Alstead, appears to have been the shameless outcry of those whose vile interests were thwarted, and, still worse, of those who had been benefitted; but yet infamously leagued themselves with others to plot the ruin of their benefactor.

But let this pass.—The old patriarch yet lives, and may the success of his system be soothing to his gray hairs! The present is a most aus-

picious day for Thomsonism. It is folly now to contend against it. Even here, a change is coming over the spirit of the community. Dr. Gardner's practice is fast increasing. Dr. Enoch Hazard, the safest and best among our M. D.'s, gives Thomsonism his countenance and assistance. This is just and honorable, and as it should be. Lastly, I was permitted, a short time since, to be heard through the "Republican" of this place, in behalf of Thomsonism. This privilege will be granted me whenever I may see proper to avail myself of it.

Your friend,

CHARLES B. PECKHAM.

PROSPECTUS

Of the Third Volume of the
PHILADELPHIA BOTANIC SENTINEL,
And Thomsonian Medical Revolutionist.

EDITED BY M. MATTSON:

"I believe we may safely affirm, that the INEXPERIENCED and PRESUMPTUOUS band of medical tyros let loose upon the world, DESTROY MORE HUMAN LIFE IN ONE YEAR, than all the Robin Hoods, Cartouches, and Macbeths do in a century! * * * In medicine, I wish to see a REFORM—an abandonment of HYPOTHESES for SOBER FACTS!"—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The Sentinel is now established on a firm basis; it is circulated in almost every part of the United States, and its patronage is daily increasing.

Under these flattering auspices, the publisher proposes to issue the THIRD VOLUME, which, he believes, will possess many superior attractions.

The editor will not aim simply at *Reform*, in the healing art, but *REVOLUTION!* for nothing short of *Revolution* can establish a safe and efficacious system of medical practice.

The forthcoming volume will contain the celebrated discussion which occurred in this city between Doctors Draper and Sleigh, on the merits of the Thomsonian system. The discussion excited an extraordinary degree of interest among all classes, and was attended by MANY THOUSAND people. A faithful report was procured by the subscriber, at considerable expense, expressly with a view to publication in the Sentinel.

The discrepancies of medical authors, from Hippocrates down to the present time, will be accurately detailed.

The old school Materia Medica will be critically examined; it will be shown that the remedial are not to be depended upon, and that no two authors, who have written upon the subject, precisely agree as to the effects which many of them produce.

Some attention will be given to anatomy: the circulation of the blood will be explained, and the offices of the more important organs in the animal economy will be familiarly illustrat-

ed. This department will prove interesting to every class of readers.

The plants made use of in the Thomsonian practice will be accurately described; an account will also be given, of their various medicinal properties, and how they should be used.

Disease of every description will be commented upon; and the requisite means of cure pointed out. Valuable information will be afforded in this department.

Cases of interest treated on the Thomsonian plan, will be reported from time to time; and every information afforded, which a Family Journal, devoted to the new and popular system of AMERICAN MEDICINE, should contain.

Will the friends of the cause exert themselves in circulating our Prospectus? The Thomsonian system now numbers more than THREE MILLIONS of advocates, and it only requires a determined effort, to revolutionize the whole country. The theory, in its general outline, is one that can be comprehended by the most ordinary mind; and hence the unparalleled success which has attended the cause in almost every part of the United States.

The first number of the new volume, will be issued on the 24th of August, ensuing.

TERMS:—Two dollars per annum in advance, \$2,50 if not paid within six months; and \$3,00 if not paid before the expiration of the year. No subscription received for a less term than one year.

JOHN COATES, jr., Publisher,
No. 80, South Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

CHAMOMILE.—Common Chamomile is a native of England, and, on account of the great consumption of its flower, it would reward cultivation on a large scale in the United States. It is perennial, and will grow well in poor, sandy soils. All parts of the plant might be converted to medical use, though the flowers are the part made officinal, and of the single ones, known by their yellow disc or centre, are somewhat strongest in their sensible qualities. The taste of chamomile is bitter and aromatic, and its active qualities reside in extractive matter, and essential oil. Infusion in water extracts the former, and detains a considerable portion of the latter. Taken cold, this infusion is serviceable as a tonic in loss of appetite, cholerosis, &c. It is an anti-spasmodic, well suited to the nervous debilities of females. Taken warm, in large quantities, it is nauseating, and is commonly employed to aid the operation of emetics. Probably any bitter infusion would do as well. The same remark may apply to the use of chamomile external fomentations and poultices.—*Phil. Sat. Courier.*

LIGHT.—The Italian natural philosopher, Melloni, has recently invented a mode of depriving the rays of light of caloric, which seems to open the way to great discoveries respecting the rays of light, when thus in-

sulated. His method is very simple: he passes the sun's ray through a combination of bodies (water, and a particular sort of glass coloured green with oxide of copper,) which bodies absorb all the caloric, and but little of the light. The light thus separated from its caloric is very yellow, with a green tinge; and when so concentrated by lenses, as to be as bright as the direct ray, the most delicate thermometer does not show the smallest degree of warmth. It has long been known that the prism, besides dividing the ray into its several pencils of colors, separated at one end of the spectrum a pencil of heat-making rays, and at the other a pencil of chemically-acting rays, both perceptible only by their effect; but this mode of severing the heat from the light offered little means of experimenting upon the unadulterated light, of which Melloni's discovery seems to give the philosopher as complete command as he had of the gases, &c.

Poetry.

THE QUESTIONER.

"Where does my father stay so long,
"Again you weep, my mother dear,
Shall we not see him more?"
"Ask, if the deep and fathomless
The dead again restore.
My child, thou art the only tie
This world hath left to me,
There is a heaven beyond the sky,
A home for him and thee."

"Thy father tarried long, my child,
Upon the distant main,
The hurricane the ocean swept,
He'll ne'er return again!
His gallant ship, my gentle boy,
It rests beneath yon wave;
That placid, calm and shining sea,
Flows o'er thy father's grave!"

"How well I now remember him,
He held me on his knee,
There is a bird, and fruit he brought
From the far Indian tree.
All other ships are coming in,
Parting the white wave's foam,
When will my father's ship return,
Or, when will he come home?"

"Where is his tall and gallant ship
You took me once to see,
In colors decked, its white sails specked
The deep blue summer sea?
Mother, I think I see him now,
He waved his hat and hand,
His last words were—'God bless you both,'
When we stood on the strand.

Mother, from you and I?
Why does he not return again?
Why do you weep and sigh?
Three months, you said, he would remain,
And leave us all alone,
Yet, by the winter's storm and snow,
Twelve months are past and gone?

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, JULY 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 9.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*,
By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, *Printer and Publisher.*

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston.

[Original.]

Extracts from a Letter to the Editor, dated
New-York, May 20th, 1837.

A few words concerning Thomsonism. You will recollect that I took a small supply of the medicines, for my own use. I have had occasion to use but very little of it myself, having enjoyed good health ever since I left Boston; but it is almost all "used up," for I have found many among my acquaintances who were sick, and who were *foolish* enough to be persuaded by me to take some of it, and *every one of them* have been *foolish* enough to say that it has cured them *immediately*. I will state one case, or more, if I have space. On a Sunday afternoon, in the month of March, I called at my brother's in Madison-street, and found his wife sick in bed. She came from New-Jersey, the Friday before; it was a cold, stormy day, very damp on board the steamboat, and she took a violent cold. On Saturday, she was very poorly all day, and at night took some hot drink, with the intention of sweating; but it had no visible effect on her. She was very much distressed through the night—continued to grow worse all the next day—and when I called, about four o'clock, P. M., she had as violent a fever on her as I ever witnessed—almost crazy with pain in the head and back—throat extremely sore, and almost entirely filled up, so that it was with the utmost difficulty she made herself heard. I told her I would go home and get some medicine which would cure her, if she would take it. She said she would, if it were possible for her to swallow it, her throat was so sore. I went out and got a large portion of No. 3, adding nearly a tea-spoonful of No. 2; gave directions how to take it, and then left. On my way home, I called to see a family with whom I was acquainted, and was there informed that a child in the next house lay at the point of death, afflicted with scarlet fever. That morn-

ing, when the M. D. called—to *do nothing for the child*, as the "*disease must take its course*,"—a young lady who boarded there, mentioned to him that she felt a little unwell; her head ached slightly, and throat a very little sore—she said she should hardly have thought of it, if there had not been sickness in the house. The M. D., after feeling her pulse, and looking at her tongue, pronounced strong symptoms of scarlet fever—must have some *poison*—ask pardon, medicine—immediately. Calomel was prescribed and taken, and the patient took to her bed.

When my informant had related to me the above facts, I told him of the condition in which I had just left my sister-in-law, and the medicine I had given; and said, laughingly, "Now we will see whose patient does best." He made me promise to call and inform him what effect my medicine had; and he, in the interim, would ascertain how the young lady was getting along.

I had not time to go to my brother's again, until 6 o'clock the next evening. And, as I was wending my steps thither, felt very certain of finding my patient better. But, when I entered the room, judge of my surprise, my disappointment, at the situation in which I found her! She was not in her bed, with her friends around her, to see her go out of the world by the effects of *ignorance*, it is true. But she was at—the tea-table, *eating enough* [I had *almost said?*] *for ten men!!* In ten minutes after taking the medicine, she was in a free perspiration, her pain ceased, she dropped to sleep, awoke the next morning well, with the exception of a little soreness of the throat? I then went and inquired for the *calomel* patient. She went immediately to bed, after taking the *poison*—had not been able to sit up a moment after it, and was then in a raging fever. She was very sick for about three weeks; for a number of days her life was despaired of, but she ultimately recovered, thereby furnishing another "streak of glory" for the M. D., who *POISONED* her into a fit of sickness, which, thank God, Nature was able to throw off.

N. B. The child, alluded to above, subsequently died.

Yours, in friendship,

I. H. A.

MAMMOTH MAN.—Daniel Brackett recently died at his residence in Newmarket, N. H. A short time previous to his death, he weighed 560 pounds! He was nearly six feet in height, and measured, round the body, seven feet and ten inches! His coffin was two feet ten inches wide, and two feet high!

[Original.]

Dover, June 2d, 1837.

To the Editor of the Manual:

SIR,—Wishing to promote the cause of philanthropy, I take the liberty to address you this communication, with a request that you will insert the same in your next paper. Seven years or more last passed, I was violently attacked with what the celebrated mineral physicians termed the Inflammatory Rheumatism; and was under the care of two of the most eminent for a long time. They succeeded in partially expelling the same from my system, but after some time had elapsed, I was again assailed with my old complaints, in a more virulent manner than before. I then determined to try the efficacy of the Thomsonian remedies, and placed myself under the care of Dr. Andrew Watkins, of Dover, N. H., under whose treatment I remained only four or five weeks, when I was able to be removed to my own lodgings, and in a short time after, I became perfectly restored to sound health. I am impelled to make this statement, from a desire to spread the knowledge of the invaluable virtues of this system of practice, from a sense of justice to the skill of Dr. Andrew Watkins therein, and in the hope that it will subserve the cause of suffering humanity throughout the community.

NATHAN CLARK.

☞ The above was intended for our last number; but was not received until after it was too late to insert it. The certificate comes from a gentleman of high standing and respectability, and adds another independent mind to the large and rapidly increasing phalanx, who have had the manhood to come out, and openly testify to the virtues of the best and only true system of medicine ever yet discovered.

FEVER AND AGUE.—A strong decoction of white ash bark, drank plentifully, on the first symptoms of fever and ague, will generally have the effect of arresting the disease. We have for two seasons tried it with decided success, and have witnessed its beneficial effects upon others. The remedy may not be infallible, but it is worth a trial by those who are afflicted with that distressing complaint. We are not sure that the white ash grows on the Island, but it is quite plentiful on the Connecticut side of the sound.—[*Jamaica Farmer*.]

LIVING IN HOPE.—An elderly man, probably 75 years of age, on being asked if he had any family, replied, with great *naivete*—"No, Sir, not at present."

Porson said of a prospect shown to him, that it put him in mind of a Fellowship—a long dreary walk with a church at the end of it.

[Original.]

DR. PATTEN'S REPORTS OF CASES.

[Continued from our last.]

I had one patient who, the doctors said, had the liver complaint. He had had the symptoms for six years; and for twelve months he had not been able to attend to his business. He had taken medicine from six or seven different physicians, besides many of the quack nostrums advertised in the public prints. The patient had expended one hundred and fifty dollars in about one year,—and was fast hastening to his "long home." He then, after all other means had failed, had recourse to Thomsonism. His friends cautioned him against coming to me; stating that I should "sponge" him out of his money, and he would die after all. I gave him two courses, and furnished him with medicines, and my charge was a trifle short of \$8,00. The man was perfectly cured, and is ready and willing to testify to these facts. Six months before he came to me, I cautioned him against taking the nostrums he was using, and told him that the more he took of them, the worse he would be, and that he would be compelled to come to me after all. My words proved true; he did come to me, was relieved, and is now a firm advocate for Thomsonism.

Case of lung fever. Patient had been quite unwell one week, and ailing for some time previous. The fever ran very high, and was rather a hard case. His step-father and mother were very much opposed to his coming to me, as well as most of his friends; they wished him to have a regular, but he was inflexible; and determined to come to me. He did so; and whilst going through the courses, some of his friends were "raising a breeze" about my killing him! After he was cured, the hue and cry ceased, and no credit was given, except by the patient and one or two others, for the cure.

I had one case of a woman, afflicted with what I suppose the regulars would call inflammatory, chronic rheumatism. Her husband was a poor man, with a family of children, and was dependent upon his labor for support. He had a regular attending her, and her husband asked the doctor how long it would probably be before he could cure her. He said, perhaps three months, perhaps six. This so discouraged him, that, at the advice of his friends, he came for me. When I saw the woman, she was in bed, and entirely helpless—she could not even raise her hand to her head, or support herself in any manner. I gave her a course of medicine, and the next day she walked across the room. I gave her another course, which perfectly cured her. I attended her, altogether, about six days—so that I saved the doctor the trouble of three or six months' attendance, the husband the expense of paying for the same, and the woman protracted sufferings.

Case of Cholera Morbus.—A child: was not expected to live. It had vomitted seven times, and purged seven times, and was in a very cold

and dangerous state. One of the regulars was attending a child the same day, who had been taken in a similar manner; his died, and the one I attended was cured with one course of medicine. The prejudice of the people tried to palm off the one that died on me; but bad success attended the effort.

I had another case, subsequently, in the same family, of a young man who was troubled with a humor. I gave him one course, but finding that did not relieve him, and thinking to get relieved by the Beechite practitioner here a little cheaper, he sent for him. He poulticed the patient's legs, which were swollen, and ordered him to soak his feet in ley. This struck the humor to the bowels. I was again sent for, and found it very difficult to relieve him. It was nearly five days before I could get an injection to operate—I administered seventeen, and three emetics—these, with restoratives, &c. perfectly cured him. When I was called the second time, it was not thought the patient could possibly live. In addition to what I have above stated, I applied warm baths to his bowels, &c. This is another instance of the mal-practice of impostors, who are Beechites, Thomsonians, or anything or nothing, as may best suit their interest.

Previous to the above cases, I had one other in the same family, of a young man, who had overheated himself, by working on the highway, which had produced inflammation on the liver. His liver had swelled very much, and he had been attended by two or three regular physicians, who could give him no relief. He had been subject to spasms for two or three months, and they were increasing in number and virulence. These the regulars could not relieve, short of fifty hours. Then came my turn. I attended him some time, and it was only by the most rigid perseverance, that I succeeded in curing him. During the time that I attended him, he had about one hundred spasms; these I relieved without any difficulty; but it was some time before I could seem to get at the seat of the disease. For some time I despaired of him, and his friends had the minister called in two or three times, and they bade him, as they thought, a last farewell. But, by following up the medicines, I succeeded in saving his life. Whilst going through the first course, a bunch as large as a hen's egg came out under the ribs—and he seemed to be completely filled with putrid matter.

I will here state, that my infirmary was not clear of patients from December, 1835, to November, 1837. My practice has been extensive, and my success very great. And, in conclusion, I will again bear the most unequivocal testimony to the superior efficacy of the Thomsonian medicine. The success of my practice, and that of the system generally, convinces me that the Thomsonian system is adequate to the cure of all curable cases—and, nine times out of ten, this will cure, *where all other means have been tried, and have failed.*

For the present, I shall not encroach upon your pages, unless something of particular consequence should arise, to render it necessary. Once more I caution the public against mongrel Thomsonians.—I would sooner have a mineral doctor—or no doctor at all—than one of them. The public may rest assured, that if these impostors will cheat and defame Dr. Thomson—it can hardly be presumed they will be any more honest with other persons.

Yours, with proper respect,

JOHN R. PATTEN, T. B. P.

Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson.

Lynn, [Mass.,] 1837.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

"ANOTHER DEATH BY QUACKERY."

MR. EDITOR: Thinking that the following account, which I copy from the New York Transcript, of March —, 1837, might not meet your eye, I have thought proper to forward it to you, as it may be serviceable to some of your readers. It would indeed be a difficult thing for me to describe the feelings which these paragraphs produced. Is this the beautiful temple that *Science* (aided by the best talents and energies of the great and good for four thousand years and upwards), reared to Health; that a person in the enjoyment of health, (save the contraction of a severe cold,) and in the space of five hours is brought to the grave by the administration of an article whose powers are so concentrated that one grain prostrates the whole living energies even unto death? and then shall the afflicted husband be told by a council of Professors, that his loss was at their hands; and yet, notwithstanding they had laid his wife and partner in the grave by their practice, which, though it killed in five hours, the prescription was correct both as to quality and quantity for her particular case? The people believe, and will render their "verdict accordingly." It is right; the Doctor says so! This caps the climax of medical arrogance and human gullibility.

"Extraordinary Death by taking Poisonous Medicine.—An extraordinary sensation has been created in and about the neighborhood of Christopher and Bedford streets, owing to the very sudden death of Mrs. Elizabeth McGuire, aged 27, the wife of a respectable master-tailor, who resides at No. 121, Bedford-street.

The Coroner, yesterday forenoon, held an inquest on the body, which sat four hours, and, in a very patient and praiseworthy manner, endeavored to elucidate the extraordinary cause of the death of this unfortunate young woman. The following may be relied on as a brief outline of the affair:

Mr. Joseph McGuire, the husband of deceased has, for a few days past, been confined at home by sickness, and has been attended by Dr. Joseph Hart, of the corner of Christopher and Bleeker-streets. On Tuesday, deceased complained to the Doctor of a violent cough

and pain in her side, to relieve which he bled her. On Wednesday morning, when he next called on Mr. McGuire, he inquired of deceased whether she had found relief from the bleeding, to which she replied in the negative. Dr. H. then proposed to either bleed her again, or supply her with a draught. Mrs. McGuire preferred the latter, and sent her sister to the Doctor's store for the requisite medicine, which was furnished by the Doctor, who himself made it up. On the return of the young lady, the medicine was administered to Mrs. McGuire, who in less than half an hour complained of dizziness in her eyes and blindness. Her husband requested her to lie down, which she did, and shortly afterwards complained that her flesh was benumbed, and that she had lost her feeling.

Mr. McGuire became alarmed, and immediately sent for Dr. Hart, who, upon his arrival, expressed no surprise or concern, but merely remarked that the medicine he had administered was of a peculiar kind, and invariably either produced no effect at all, or else produced a very powerful effect. He, however, appeared to be conscious that the medicine in this instance, had produced a bad effect, for he instantly produced some tartar emetic, which he endeavored to force down her throat, with a view to produce vomiting and relieve the stomach of the poison it had imbibed from the medicine. By this time, however, the glands of the throat and mouth had become so swollen that, although the doctor used every means in his power, and even held Mrs. McGuire's lips, yet he could not succeed in getting the emetic to pass into her stomach. Dr. H. then left. Mrs. McGuire was insensible, and from her sick husband becoming still more terrified, he sent for the aid of Dr. Clinton, the physician, of St. John's Park. That gentleman was prompt in his attendance; and, on arriving at Mr. McGuire's residence, was met by Dr. H. accompanied by Dr. Hubbard, a physician whom Dr. Hart had himself called in on the occasion. The three were in consultation for a considerable time, and made no other disclosure of the condition of their patient or its cause, than to state that the medicine had caused it. About 5 o'clock the same afternoon Mrs. McGuire expired, by which time her stomach, throat and tongue, was much swollen, her neck, hands and fingers discolored, and every other symptom was perceptible, which would be found in an ordinary case of death by poison.

In the evening of Wednesday, some inquiries were made of Dr. Hart, as to what medicine he had given to the deceased, when he replied *only one grain of morphine*. While the Inquest was sitting, that very eminent man, Dr. David L. Rogers, assisted by Dr. Clinton, made a post mortem examination of the body, and pronounced it as their decided opinion that the deceased's death was occasioned by the morphine which had been administered to her, although they stated that the quantity given, viz.: one

grain, was not an unusual quantity, nor such a quantity as would usually cause death, except to persons of a very peculiar constitution; in fact, those gentlemen each admitted they had, on various occasions, given a larger quantity to patients, without its being productive of any injury, and that they, in a similar case, would have administered as much, although they admitted in some cases a far less quantity was sufficient to cause death. The difficulty then appeared to be, to ascertain what quantity of the deadly poison had been supplied by Dr. Hart to the deceased. Dr. H. declared it was but one grain, and his brother swore that that was the quantity, although it was rendered somewhat doubtful by the following circumstances: First, the sale of the medicine and its ingredients was not entered in the store book kept for that purpose; and second, the Doctor's brother (who had only left off farming about five weeks) handed to his brother the weight with which the morphine was weighed, and which he swore was a grain weight, although, from the short time he has been in the business, it was open to doubt whether he was or was not mistaken; the probability of his being so, being materially increased by the fact that his brother the Doctor, is rather near sighted, and consequently might himself have been deceived, especially as he is but a young practitioner, and only received his diploma or certificate to enable him to practice, on the 3d day of last month. The Jury, after some considerable private deliberation, returned a verdict that the deceased's death was occasioned by taking morphine, she being of a peculiar constitution."

The deceased was the mother of three children. Comment is unnecessary. The followers of the car of Juggernaut do not exhibit a greater degree of blindness and human degradation. That such principles are offered and received as science, is indeed most humiliating.

Respectfully yours,

DANIEL BARNUM, jr.

Bethel, Ct., March 27th, 1837.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

(BITE OF A DIAMOND RATTLESNAKE.—Case of a young man bitten by a diamond rattlesnake, in the morning about an hour after sunrise. Various things were tried through the day, but with little effect. In the evening they sent for an M. D., and he sent them for me. I was off attending on a patient. He came to me and asked if I could cure a snake bite. I told him my directions; said that the medicine was good for poison, but I never had a case of that kind. He said the case was bad, if he was alive then. I said if he was as bad as that, I did not want to go. He said I must, if he was dead. When we got there, about nine o'clock in the night, the man was yet alive, lying on the floor and hallooing for mercy every breath, and catching with his hand at his mouth. He was bit on his right hand; one tooth went in betwixt the middle and fore-finger, just below the

joint, and went through. The other went in just above the joints of the middle and third fingers. When I went in the house was full of strange people to me, and I a strange doctor to them. The sick man fastened his eyes on me. I sat down and thought that he would die in a short time, and if I gave him medicine, that they might lay it to the medicine and me. But I thought, let the consequence be what it might, I would go-ahead; and told the man I would do all I could for him. The first dose I gave him stopped him from hallooing a few seconds, and the intervals got longer every dose I gave. In about three hours he went to sleep, and slept a quarter of an hour. He then got so that he would ask for medicine. I gave him as much that night as would cure four men of cholera, and it never operated till about an hour after sunrise in the morning. He got well in a short time, and is now a real Thomsonian.

I am yours, with respect,

ROBERT STORY.

*Mulberry Grove, Pickens Co., Ala., }
January 16, 1837. }*

I do certify that the above statement of the snake bite is true, as the hand that holds the pen is the one that was bit, this 26th day of January, 1837.

HENRY CREEL.

[From the Botanic Sentinel.]

A HORRIBLE SPECIES OF BUSINESS.

Not many months ago, a very respectable man, aged about forty-five years, who had been for several years a sexton of one of our principal churches, fell sick at his residence at No. —, in — street. His sickness at first was not considered dangerous. His family physician attended him as usual—but in a short time it was ascertained that some potent remedy must be adopted, or all would soon be over.

"Do you think I am in danger, Doctor?" asked the sick man.

The physician was loth to say so—as physicians generally are in such cases.

The sick man lingered and grew worse.—"Oh! doctor, doctor," said he, "there is something preys on my mind—something even worse than the fatal disorder."

The patient tossed and tumbled about—was restless, thoughtful, and entirely absorbed in some mental calamity. His wife attempted to soothe him—talked of heaven and mercy—but all would not do. The physician was equally unsuccessful in all his endeavors to soothe the disturbed mind of the dying man.

"Take away your physic, Doctor—it is useless—it cannot administer to a mind diseased."

The physician and the sick man's family talked over the matter with great seriousness. They could not conjecture what was the cause of the disturbed fancies of the poor dying man. The wife had lived a long and respectable life with her husband. He was a sexton of one of our most respectable churches, and had always enjoyed the esteem of the clergy and congregation by whom he was employed.

In this dilemma it was therefore determined to ascertain what lay so deeply on his conscience. The doctor one afternoon turned the attention of his patient to the subject that troubled him.

"Can you not tell me, Mr. —, what troubles you so deeply?"

"Oh doctor, doctor, do n't speak of it—Oh, it gnaws me to the quick. Look, I see their very faces glaring upon me—horror! horror!! horror!!!"

The physician soothed him as he would have soothed a child. "I will relieve your mind," said he to the sick man.

"Oh God! I wish I could get relief—see doctor, see them all there pointing their skinny fingers. There's Mrs. —, whom I sold for twenty dollars. She asks me for the money—here she stands! My God! my God! I have not got the money—I did not get but half, the other sexton got part—go to him, Oh, horror! horror!! horror!!!"

"My dear sir," said the physician mildly, "you are raving—you talk of shadows."

"Heavens! doctor, do you call those persons shadows? See one of them coming into the room. Shut that window, and bar the shutters. I see old Mrs. —, just trying to get in. There's her winding sheet. She says I sold her for fifty dollars—Oh no, no, no—I only got thirty."

The physician then to humor his poor, distracted patient, went to the window and closed the shutter.

"Look there, doctor—there's a young woman that I took away after being a couple of days in the grave. She cries out against me—she cries and tears her hair—Oh! oh! oh!"

The physician found that all his efforts were fruitless; after calling in the wife and family of the dying man, they partly succeeded in quieting the tumult which agitated his bosom. He would, however, listen to no effectual consolation until they would promise to call in a highly respectable clergyman whom he named, to minister some pious comfort to his last hours, which were now rapidly drawing to a close.

Accordingly, a message was immediately despatched, the venerable clergyman came, and the sick man, on perceiving him, desired all to withdraw, except the man of God. When left entirely together, after some struggles, the sick man unfolded to the astonished clergyman, one of the most extraordinary practices which could be dreamed of in a Christian community.

It appeared that the dying man, who was a sexton for several years, had been in the habit, secretly and at night, of abstracting the corpses of such persons as were buried in the grave yard he had charge of, and of selling them for subjects of dissection to the physicians around town, and even sending them into the country. In conjunction, it is supposed, with a person now alive, who was then also a sexton, it is believed, that a most extensive business of this kind was carried on for several years—and that it was found so lucrative, that both individuals,

originally quite poor when they became sextons, became rich and respectable in a very few years. By the rules and regulations applicable to church yards and sextons, those officers had full and free access at all hours, to all the public and private vaults under their charge. The remains of the dead deposited in the private vaults were generally untouched; but those buried in the church yard, or those deposited in the public vaults, were considered the property of the sextons, and they disposed of their horrible merchandise accordingly to the highest bidder, among the medical faculty.

[From the Thomsonian Recorder.]

“SCIENTIFIC TREATMENT” of *Inflammation of the Tonsils, or Sore Throat.*

Gentlemen Thomsonians—(and Ladies, too)—no, we forget—“vulgar steam quacks,” all—just please to cast aside your vile pepper, steam and lobelia, while we introduce to your wonder and admiration the true “scientific mode of curing that new and terrible disease, called “Cynanche Tonsillaris,” (what, in your “ignorance of science,” you commonly style sore throat.) No vulgar notions or empirical practices of old women and rooters, these we are about to give you—they are the fruits of 4,000 years of scientific research! They are developed to the astonished gaze of the less informed and the ignorant, by one of the most scientific writers of the age, on the Principles of Pathology and Practice of Physic. Are you not anxious for the article? Well, we will at once step aside and let you see the wonder.

Cynanche Tonsillaris.

When the tonsils are inflamed and swollen, “leeches should be applied internally to the part immediately affected; in which case, each leech is introduced by means of a tube, *with a thread through the tail.*”—Mackintosh’s Practice of Physic, vol. 1, page 165.

Here, you see, is a most delicate and chaste operation—any lady of the weakest nerve, can take up a leech in her delicate fingers, just run a needle through its tail, that’s all—(it wont kick nor nothing,) and then let it creep half way down her daughter’s throat, and so hold it there (it wont take long) till it has filled itself so full that it will be neither able nor disposed to “back out!” The young lady, too, can have no manner of objection to taking into her throat this disgusting animal, which, by expanding itself with blood, will soon become no very trifling mouthful, even if it should not, by the slacking of the nerve of the mother’s hand, slide like a wheat beard into the stomach, where it would be so little incommoded by the inconveniences of its new mansion, as to feast itself on the vital fluids of that organ, whenever it had need. Surely, ye “vulgar steam quacks,” you will consent to give up your “scalding, puking and sweating” for such a scientific and delicate operation as this!

But, if you should be so void of taste as to

have no relish for our mild and easy treatment, we will have ye to know that our science is not yet exhausted. If the above should not answer, we give you the following:

“The most effectual application, in this disease, is a solution of nitrate of silver, (common caustic,) in distilled water. This must be used with proper care, for bad consequences have been known to follow. There is a preparation in my museum in which the epiglottis is completely destroyed by common caustic, rudely used.”—ib. page 166.

Here is science for you! It not only drives into the back-ground steam, lobelia and cayenne, but it even shears the glory from the *delicate* and *tasty* operation of pulling leeches out of the throat by a string run through their tails!

It will hereafter be exceedingly vulgar and old-fashioned to refer to, or place any confidence in such testimonies as the following:

“*Capsicum Annuum.*—(Cayenne) is one of the strongest and purest stimulants known. This pepper has been successfully employed in a species of Cynanche Maligna (putrid sore throat) which proved very fatal in the West Indies, resisting the use of Peruvian bark, wine and other remedies commonly employed. In ophthalmia from relaxation, the diluted juice is found to be a valuable remedy.”—Hooper’s Med. Dic.

“Ardent spirits first excites, then depresses the vital energy, and then causes the very difficulty it is intended to relieve; therefore it is less safe and useful than capsicum, piperine, &c., because these are not followed as a part of their operation, by exhaustion or any kind of narcosis. They may be repeated without danger of producing torpor or insensibility.”—Bost. Med. and Surg. Journal, vol. ix, page 346.

[From the Botanic Sentinel.]

TEETH.—It has been frequently remarked by foreign travellers, that the people of these United States are more affected by carious or rotten teeth, than any other people of the world; and we believe the observation is founded in truth. A few years since, the profession of a dentist was not heard of in our cities; now this class of persons flourish in wealth, and, as Dr. Johnson says, are in the full tide of successful experiment. To what cause are we to ascribe so many decayed teeth? The question is answered in the fact, *of mercury, in some form, being so freely given by physicians.* For a few years past, the faculty have dealt out calomel to the people with a liberal and unsparing hand, and the consequence has been rotten bones, rotten teeth, indigestion or dyspepsia, nervous diseases, rheumatisms, and various other forms of disease, which have rapidly multiplied to a vast and alarming extent. If a child has the cholera, the doctor gives calomel; if fever, calomel; if worms, calomel; if headache, calomel; if a cold, calomel; if it cries, calomel; if it pukes, calomel; if it purges, calomel. It matters not what ails

it, calomel is given as the grand specific. For every form of disease, in the old and young, male and female, the strong and the weak, the robust and the delicate, *calomel* has been resorted to as the principal medicine of the "regular faculty." No wonder then that we have so many rotten teeth. Indeed, the only matter of surprise is, that the people have any teeth at all! If the people wish sound teeth, they must abandon calomel, the blue pill, and all mercurial preparations. Calomel and rotten teeth may be regarded as nearly synonymous terms.

[From the Detroit Daily Advertiser.]

EXTRAORDINARY LUSUS NATURÆ.

Under the genus *Polyperia* of medical authors, we have seen recorded some remarkable instances of the waywardness of dame nature in the mis-arrangement of important organs, the duplication of heads and limbs, and the cohesion of twin bodies, each being perfectly developed; but we do not remember to have seen a more interesting case of monstrosity than one recently presented to our notice, which occurred in the practice of Dr. A. Barrows, of Wayne county, in this State.

In the specimen before us, there are two children, (brought forth but little in anticipation of maturity,) which are closely united from the top of the sternum or breast bone to the navel, and are in all respects perfectly formed, excepting in each one there is a rudimentary arm concealed by the closeness and extent of their bond of union. Viewed in their present state of preservation, these children have the appearance of walking in close embrace, their faces both in one direction, while their bodies incline inward, so as to half face each other. **

We have examined the above named monstrosity, which is truly a *lusus naturæ*. It weighed six pounds. From the umbilicus below, there is in perfection two females. Above this to the top of the shoulders, there is two bodies lost in each other. There is to one a perfect right arm, and to the other a perfect left arm; both very delicately formed. A scar points to the spots where the other arms should be, the shoulder blades being perfect to the other sides. There are two perfect necks though they incline the head apart. There are two perfect and beautiful heads. The cause of this singular imperfection is doubtless owing to the state of the ovaria in the mother. We apprehend that such a result is beyond the control of fright and peeled sticks.—*Cleveland Liberalist*.

SINGULAR CIRCUMSTANCE.—A young woman, named Rebecca Walker, whose parents reside at Crowland, died on Friday last, after remaining in a state of asphyxia for nine weeks. She became insensible and apparently dead, and it was only on the closest inspection it could be perceived that she breathed. During this time, nothing was administered to

her but a spoonful of water occasionally. Before her death, she became a complete skeleton. On a post mortem examination, her heart was found to be of the size of a chicken's.—[*Lincolnshire Chron.*]

POWER OF IMAGINATION.—The celebrated Dr. Cullen, of Edinburg, had in one of his lectures, stated that imagination was sometimes the cause of diseases. A few of the students being desirous of bringing the remarks of their learned preceptor to the test of experience, left the city one summer morning, expecting to fall in with a simple waggoner, with whom they were acquainted, and who they knew would come to Edinburg with a load of coals that day. They arranged themselves so as to be at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from each other.—The first on meeting the man accosted him thus: "Jock, what is the matter with you? You seem very unwell:" said he, "deil hae't is the matter wi' me. I only wish I was in Edinburg to get my pottage." In a few minutes he was met by a second one, who, with a very serious countenance, said, "Dear me, Jock, what makes you go abroad in such a situation? you look as pale as death." "I feel an unco pain in my head," said Jock, "and begin to be awfu' tired as I am ganging along the road." He was asked a similar question by a third. The poor fellow now began to believe he was really indisposed. He felt sick at his stomach, and to use his own words, "ilka bane in his body was sae sair that he could scarcely gang ony farther. In troth he didna ken how to haud up his head." He made shift to crawl along till he met the fourth who told him he looked like the picture of death. "You need na tell me that" said Jock, "I find that I'm na long for this world. O my head! O my back! I canna stan'. O do my guid mister, let me lean on your arm, and take me into the hoo's, or I shall dee by the side o'the dyk." Jock was accordingly put to bed, received medical aid from those on whose skill he reposed the fullest confidence, and was well on the ensuing day! It is no more than fair to state, that the students were so much pleased with their experiment, that they were perfectly willing to pay for it, and accordingly they presented Jock with fifty guineas, for the uneasiness they had given him.

COMFORT TO STAMMERERS.—There is scarcely any evil without its compensation. In the life of Mr. Jebb, lately published in England, the following anecdote is related:

"Dr. Darwin, it is well known, was a great stammerer: a tactless guest broadly noticed the defect remarking, "Its a pity, Dr. Darwin, that you stutter so much." "No, Sir, rejoined the doctor (doing ample justice to his impediment as he spoke,) I consider it an advantage, it teaches me to think before I speak."

GREAT NATURAL CURIOSITY.—There is now to be seen at the American Museum, a nondescript animal, apparently of the lizard species, but which really seems to be a union of the frog, the tortoise, and lizard. The head and body resemble those of the tortoise, but in addition to the coat of mail, this reptile is covered with numerous rows of horns, extending in semicircular lines down the back, one row completely encompassing the body. Those on the head are arranged in pairs, about an inch in length. The legs and tail denote the lizard, the under part of the body the frog. The history of this strange creature is as curious as the animal itself; as will be perceived by the following note which was received with it.

“Presented to the American Museum by Mrs. Caroline Wilson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, it having been given her by a Texian officer, under Gen. Houston, and taken in Texas at the time Santa Anna was captured.”

What is most remarkable, the animal is said to have taken no food from the time it was found until its arrival in this city, last October. From that period to the present, it is positively known to have subsisted without any visible nourishment; and yet it is as lively as at first. By what means it has been able to endure so long a fast, especially during the winter, when there are no insects on which similar animals are said to feed, is a matter of conjecture, and worthy of the attention of naturalists.

AN EVENTFUL LIFE.—A memoir was read at a recent session of the Academy of Science at Paris, detailing some curious facts in the life of a man who was buried alive. M. Morel was a Lieutenant in the army of Egypt, and at the memorable battle of St. Jean d'Acre, he had both his thighs broken by a grape shot. When he had nearly recovered from the effects of this wound, he was attacked with the plague and conveyed to the hospital, where he grew worse rapidly; lost all sensation, was pronounced dead, and with a number of corpses of those who had died of the same disease, he was thrown into the ditch. Soon after one of the soldiers, on guard in that vicinity, was much astonished at seeing one of the dead men standing bold upright! He hastened to his assistance, and Morel was again conveyed to the hospital. In a few days after, he was again attacked with a fit of lethargy, and believed to be dead. This time he was wrapped in a linen cloth, and buried in the sand. In the night, a high wind arose, which displaced the sand which covered his body, and caused the unfortunate man to awake. He tore off his winding sheet, and crept towards the hospital, where he remained a long time before he recovered his general health, but he did not recover the faculties of speech or hearing, until several years after he entered the Hospital of Invalids at Avignon.

He is now sixty-seven years old, and has the aspect of a decrepid old woman, being hardly able to walk.—*Saturday News.*

TURKISH MEDICAL SCHOOL.—Sultan Mahmoud is doing much for the introduction of science into his dominions. He issued in the last week of February, a hatti sheriff, ordering a medical school to be opened at Pera, where lectures on every branch of the medical art will be delivered by European professors to Turkish students. A strong opposition was offered by the Ulemas to the proposal made by the Sultan of sanctioning by a fetwah the study of practical anatomy by Mussulmans; but whether out of deference to the arguments brought forward by the Vicar of Mahomet, or out of fear, the shiek Islam ultimately granted his consent, with the proviso, that none but the bodies of Christians and Jews should be brought as subjects to the dissecting rooms.—[Sat. News.]

SINGULAR DEATH BY THE PLAGUE.—During the prevalence of the plague in Malta, a singular calamity befel one of the holy brotherhood: his maid-servant having gone to draw some water, did not return; the priest felt uneasy at her long absence, and, calling her in vain, went to the draw-well in quest of her—she was drowned!—He laid hold of the rope with the intention of helping her, and in that act was found, standing in the calm serenity of death! The plague usually attacked the sufferer with giddiness and a want of appetite and apathy ensued. An abscess formed under each armpit. It was the practice to dissipate these; and if that could be done, the patient survived; if not, the abscesses grew of a livid color, and suppurated. Then was the critical moment of life or dissolution.

CURIOUS FACT.—It may not be generally known, that the tadpole acts the same part with fish that ants do with birds; and that, through the agency of this little reptile, perfect skeletons, even of the smallest fishes, may be obtained. To produce this, it is but necessary to suspend the fish by threads attached to the head and tail, in an horizontal position, in a jar of water, such as are found in a pond, and change it often, till the tadpoles have finished their work. Two or three tadpoles will perfectly dissect a fish in 24 hours.

One of the most distinguished medical practitioners used to say, that he considered a fee so necessary to give weight to an opinion, that when he looked at his own tongue in the glass, he slipped a guinea from one pocket into the other.

Dr. Stafford, who was uncommonly fat, was honored with this epitaph:—

Take heed, O good traveller, and do not tread hard,
For here lies Dr. Stafford in all this Church-yard.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton.*

BOSTON, JULY 15, 1837.

Our subscribers at the South are informed that, if it will be more convenient to them, they can transnit moneys to Mr. John Morrison, 135, Chatham-street, New-York, instead of forwarding the same to us.

Our friend Watkins is informed that Mr. Moore's Manual has been, and is, forwarded with the utmost care and punctuality; and if it is not received by him, the fault lies in the post office.

At the suggestion of Dr. Thomson, we request the editors of the different Botanic periodicals to copy the following address, and to let us have their views and sentiments on the objects proposed in the same.

AN ADDRESS

TO DR. THOMSON'S AGENTS, AND TO ALL OTHERS FAVORABLE TO THE EXTENSION OF THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

It must be evident to every observer of the "signs of the times," that there is an important crisis in medical practice standing at the door. And it is important for all who wish the Botanic practice to supercede the mineral, to take advantage of every means calculated to accomplish so desirable an object. In the Southern and Western States, the Botanic cause has made, and is still making, the most rapid strides. There, however, the common foe is not so formidable as in this section. Yet, even here, much ground has been gained, and great advances have been made, toward the extension of the cause; and it is to *secure* these advantages, and to devise the best means for extending them, that we are now induced to call attention to the subject.

One great—perhaps we might say the greatest—obstacle, which has operated to retard the onward march of Thomsonism, has been, and is, the *disunion* which has existed in its own ranks. It has indeed been "a house divided

against itself"—bickerings, jealousies and dissensions, have been indulged in, fostered and encouraged.—No one has come forward as an arbiter between the adverse parties—and no measure has been proposed, which was calculated to end the discord, and promote peace and harmony amongst those who are engaged in one of the greatest works of philanthropy, which has ever yet come under the observation or contemplation of man. With such an object before us, it certainly does appear, that petty jealousies, and minor sectional or selfish interests should give way, or, at least, be amicably compromised. It is to produce this desirable result, that we now invite the attention and co-operation of ALL who are friendly to the cause in which we are engaged.

Before coming directly to the proposition we intend to make, we must, for sundry obvious reasons, distinctly and frankly state the *why* and *wherefore* such a measure as we are about to suggest, has become necessary.

The unhappy differences which exist between Dr. Thomson and many individuals who are or have been his agents, are well known.—Aside from personal ill-feelings, the chief cause of this difficulty, it will doubtless be readily conceded, has been the belief that Dr. Thomson appeared to be disposed to make a monopoly of his system for his own personal emolument, on the one hand; and that the agents were determined to defraud Dr. Thomson out of his just rights, on the other. By "just rights," we mean, the right of always receiving some support from that glorious system which he has perfected—And will any one presume to dispute that this is not a "just right?" No one, we think, will do this; but many do and will say, that he receives too much. Now this is the point to be *settled*; and although *we* should not think it too much if he received ALL—yet, as others have an honest difference of opinion on this point, and as Dr. Thomson does not want *all*, there is great reason to hope that all parties may be satisfied. We do not now intend to argue the question which party has been in the wrong, or whether both may not have been,—this we shall leave to be adjusted with the other points of dispute and difficulty.

That it would be much to the advantage of every practitioner to be under the countenance and authority of Dr. Thomson, we are well persuaded, from a knowledge of facts; and we

are well satisfied that no one can succeed, when it has become known that they are not under his authority. This will be perfectly evident to all who will take the trouble to look into the subject. Now, for both parties to be on friendly terms, is certainly for their own individual interests, aside from other considerations—Not to be so, is injury to one, and ruin to the other. Yet this is nothing in comparison with the injury inflicted upon—or the good withheld from—the public. When we view it in this particular—that is, when we duly realise the benefits of which the public are deprived, by these unfortunate circumstances, all other considerations must sink into insignificance. To suppose that this system, upon which its venerable founder has spent so large a portion of his life—and has endured so much suffering and persecution, is kept in the back-ground by the mere paltry consideration of dollars and cents, is a suggestion apparently too bad to deserve even a second thought—and yet, alas! we are constrained to admit it to be true. We do believe, however, that the time will come, when such paltry considerations, and the difficulties which are so intimately connected with them, will be cast into oblivion.

One thing we must say, in the outset, in defence of Dr. Thomson, which is, that *he has but done his duty to the public and himself, in publishing cautions against the spurious articles which have been sold as his medicines*. We have ourselves seen several specimens of those articles—and, as we value health, we solemnly aver, we would not on any account use them. We have seen samples that have been procured from those who still pass for regular agents; and we are induced to withhold their names from the public at present, in the hope that an effort will be made to bring about a different state of things. These spurious and deleterious articles cannot be sold without detection, and we shall not long feel it a duty to withhold the names of those who dabble in them.

Our object, therefore, it will be perceived, is to devise some speedy and effectual means to remove all occasion for jealousy against Dr. Thomson, and for imposition upon the public. It may be, that Dr. Thomson has done wrong, (though if he has, we doubt its having been from wrong motives)—but ought the public to suffer for *his* error? Certainly not. But first let it be proved that he has done wrong. How

(it may be asked) shall this be done? We reply, in the same manner that redress is obtained in all civilized governments. First, petition for a hearing—make a full statement of grievances—and then demand justice. If this cannot be obtained,—*then* it will be time for rebellion,—it will *then*, and *not till then*, be time for the petitioners to declare their independence, without themselves doing wrong. But as respects Thomsonism, rebellion has been the first step; and, most generally at least, imposition upon the public, the second.

Now, in order to remedy this evil, and bring all to unite against the common foe, we propose the following plan: That a Convention be holden forthwith, to be composed of persons who practice upon the Botanic system; that those who are interested in the matter but cannot attend, write their views and sentiments, and transmit the same to the Convention.—That Dr. Thomson be requested to attend; and that one and all, do fearlessly and frankly, yet in a friendly and candid manner, state their views, and suggest such measures as may be deemed most expedient. Of Dr. Thomson's readiness to accede to such a measure, we are perfectly assured; and we feel confident that he will be induced to do his part toward forwarding the object. That all parties would be benefitted by the co-operation of each other, we have no doubt; that Dr. Thomson is still anxious for the success of his system, we also know—and think we may confidently predict, that all who aid him in extending it, will be well rewarded. So far as we can help along the object we have suggested, we shall do so. But if a better plan can be proposed, let us have it; if not, take this, and "go-ahead!" Will all, who wish for the prosperity of Thomsonism, speak out at once?

THOMSON'S REMEDIES.—All of the most intelligent correspondents of the various Thomsonian journals, agree in one very important particular, viz.: *that the medicines, and rules for their use, as laid down by Dr. Thomson, are decidedly the best and most effectual—or, in other words, that they are adequate to the cure of all curable cases, and that no other articles can be introduced with any benefit, and hardly without injury*. Thus discourses a correspondent of the Botanic Sentinel: "True Thomsonism wants no quacks to perfect it, nor quack nostrums to

help it along. Thomson's genuine medicines, properly administered, are all-sufficient in all curable cases, if persevered in." So have we always believed; and we have noticed that the most successful practitioners are those who adhere the most rigidly to these two points, viz.: "genuine medicines," "properly administered"—i. e. according to the rules. Depart from this, and bad success is sure to follow.

BOTANIC PERIODICALS.

It is but a few years that the press has been employed to advance the cause of medical reform, and make known to the inhabitants of our happy country the science of Botanic medicine—the true and only safe mode of curing disease. The press is the most powerful means which can be essayed, of operating upon society, and it is fast changing the aspect of things. The period is certainly not far distant, when this potent engine, shielded with the panoply of truth, and sustained by the reason and common sense of a liberal and enlightened community, will be universally felt—and when the cause of Botanic Reform, which is now producing a mighty convulsion in overturning the mineral practice, will revolutionize the present established system of medical science throughout the world. A few years since, Dr. Thomson could not procure the insertion of a single line in the public papers, either for "love or money"—and those presses, at the same time, teeming with the most foul and malicious slanders. But how is it now? How is the gloomy and forbidding aspect of affairs changed!—and the bright sunshine of truth shedding o'er the land its flood of living light? Let us look abroad, and survey for a moment the astonishing increase of the number of journals, which are not merely willing to insert a refutation of a foul calumny, but which are exclusively devoted to the dissemination and extension of the doctrines of Botanic reform. Although amongst the number, there are some which do not, as we humbly conceive, pay such deference to Dr. Thomson as we think he eminently deserves at their hands,—yet, they are all opposed to the horrid quackeries of the mineral system; and being so opposed, will be the means of accomplishing much good, although their efforts will be somewhat paralyzed from such an unfortunate circumstance. Unfortunate—because "a house divided against itself, cannot stand."

We do not include in the following list, any periodicals which are not *exclusively* devoted to Botanic reform, and do not doubt but there may be many others, which are unknown to us. The *Thomsonian Recorder*, issued semi-monthly, at Columbus, Ohio, is the oldest work of the kind now extant.—It is now published and edited by Dr. A. Curtis.—Four volumes have been completed, and the fifth is now in progression.—It was formerly published by J. Pike & Co., and edited by the much lamented Dr. Thomas Hersey.—Of the manner in which it is at present conducted, we have more than once taken occasion to speak in the highest praise. The *Botanic Sentinel and Literary Gazette*, is a weekly paper, published at Philadelphia, Pa., by Dr. J. Coates, and edited by A. C. Draper, M. D.—It has now been published nearly two years.—At the close of the present volume its cognomen is to be changed, and the ensuing volume will be entitled the *Botanic Sentinel, and Thomsonian Medical Revolutionist*—which, by the way, we consider rather the more appropriate of the two.—It is to be edited by M. Mattson, and if it comes up to what is promised in its prospectus, it will hereafter, as it has heretofore done, exert a powerful influence in the Botanic cause. The *Botanic Advocate and Journal of Health*, is published and edited by Dr. J. Wright, at Montpelier, Vt.—It is issued monthly, and has entered upon its second volume.—We believe it will exert a good influence in that section of the country, and we trust its enterprising conductor will meet a full reward of his labors. The *Thomsonian Vindicator* is the title of a semi-monthly periodical, which *used to come* to us, but we have not seen one for some months, and do not know whether it is still in existence or not.—It was published by the F. B. Society in the city of New York, and edited by Dr. S. W. Frisby.—Its articles manifested considerable spirit and ability, and if its publication has been suspended, it will be a cause for deep regret. The *Southern Botanic Journal* is the title of a new publication, recently commenced at Charlestown, S. C.,—Dr. D. F. Nardin, Editor, who is well known as an able and zealous writer, and under his care we think we may safely predict that the "Journal" will do much good in putting down the false theories and dangerous practices of the mineral school. The *Botanic Luminary*, published at Saline, Mich., is also an efficient auxiliary to

the Botanic cause,—H. Wright, Editor and Proprietor. To these we might add the *Thomsonian Botanic Watchman*, the *Indiana Botanic Register*, the *Eclectic and Journal of Science*, the *Thomsonian Defender*, the *Botanic Reformer and Vegetable Herald*, the *R. I. Botanic Advertiser*, and *Jewett's Advertiser*. And besides these, there are numerous journals, in almost every state in the union, which,—though devoted in the main to other objects,—render the most essential service to the good cause. With such an array of forces as this,—which have almost all sprung up within from two to five years,—what may not be accomplished by unanimity and perseverance? We will leave the diplomatic faculty—as they are fond of speculative theorising—to predict the result!—Yet, should they be unable to form a correct *theory* from these very palpable *symptoms*, we can assure them that the *crisis* will arrive in about two years, and the *turn*—which will be immediately consequent—will demonstrate AN ENTIRE AND UNIVERSAL REVOLUTION IN MEDICAL PRACTICE.


"W. S. JOHNSON."

In our May number, we inserted a communication of Dr. W. S. Johnson, which we copied from the Burlington Sentinel; and appended to it what we then considered, and still believe, was a fair and candid reply—and what ought to have been a *satisfactory* one. Dr. Johnson has selected about *one third* of *one* paragraph—in such a manner as not fairly to represent us—and has taken us to do about the sentiments it contained. Now, we can't stand this! If his object is controversy, *we* must have a *full* hearing in the same organ through which he speaks, and he shall be heard through the Manual, as well as ourself. Unless he will agree to this—why, he shall have the field entirely to himself; and he may fight away as valiantly as the knight of La Mancha as long as he can raise shadows upon which to devote the superfluity of his chivalrous valor. Let him beware, however, that his "master-spirit" does not carry him too far; lest, peradventure, like the "Don" and his humble "Squire," he should incidentally meet with sundry little mishaps, which would neither promote his comfort nor increase his fame—although, perhaps it might tend to advance his "prospects" for notoriety!

A word or two, in reply to the "response." What comes under the first particular, has been

already answered—and that fully.—[See May number.] "2d." Dr. Johnson says he has been "informed" that the *bond* "deprives all who sign it of [the privilege of] collecting *vegetables* and preparing medicine from their own fields." *This is totally false*; that is, unless it is gathered for the purpose either of speculation or fraud; and in this particular, the *bond* embraces but a few articles. Are you satisfied? Again, in the closing paragraph, he says that it is "generally thought" by the *botanical* people in that part of the country, that Dr. Thomson will not admit any one to become agent, unless he will purchase *books* and medicines to a large amount, and then sign a bond which compels him to come to Dr. Thomson for every ounce of medicine he uses, and pay an extortionate price for the same; or by the strength of the bond, he is made to pay the sum of five thousand dollars, "perhaps for the offence of picking one *Lobelia Sprig*,"—EVERY ONE OF WHICH "GENERAL THOUGHTS" IS FALSE.

Now, with these point-blank answers to your interrogatories, doctor, we hope you will no more vex us with your hallucinations, based upon *hear-say* evidence. For one's own credit's sake, it is important to fully understand, or to have at least *some* positive knowledge upon a subject, before appearing publicly for or against it. Unless this is observed, certain little mortifications must necessarily follow. And we especially recommend Dr. J. to *examine* the bond, which he can do at any time when he is in the city. He will then be better satisfied of its nature than he can be by any thing which he may hear, or which we can write or print. Having ourself signed the obnoxious *bond*, we will show it to him, at any time he is disposed to call upon us, at 33, Washington-street.

 A pamphlet of 48 pages has been handed to us, which was sent to Dr. Thomson's General Agent in this city, containing an "Address in Refutation of the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice, delivered in the Lecture Room of the Chester Co. Cabinet of Natural Science, West Chester, Pa., on Dec. 31, 1836. By Sumner Stebbins, M.D." We have not had time to examine this address; but shall give it a perusal, and take such notice of it as we may conceive it deserves, in the next number of the Manual. The author indorses upon the margin a short note, signifying that he cannot agree

with Dr. Thomson's General Agent in his "*faith* in the Thomson system." This was doubtless intended as a sneer. There is a vast difference between *faith* or *belief*—which signifies *uncertainty*,—and positive demonstration. The conviction produced by practical demonstration is not *faith* or *belief* merely, but absolute knowledge. To believe that which is not *proved*, may require *faith*; but it is impossible to disbelieve that which is proved; and it requires no *faith*—but merely a little *moral courage*—to candidly admit a fully demonstrated truth.

DR. J. S. BARTLETT.—We have been politely favored by a friend with the perusal of Dr. Bartlett's Letter to the Massachusetts Medical Society, addressed to them on the occasion of their anniversary, May 31st: it being their first anniversary meeting since Dr. Bartlett was expelled. This Letter is designed to answer as a substitute for a more elaborate work which Dr. B. intended to have issued at this time—but which, by some fortuitous circumstances, has been delayed. It will soon, we hope, be forthcoming. Dr. B.'s Letter must certainly place the Society in rather an unenviable light. It seems that he has been excluded from membership, on account of the breach of one of their rules, in having "publicly aided, abetted and been in consultation with certain medical gentlemen," who were not members of said Society, nor otherwise entitled to such confidence. But, whilst *he* has been excluded, others chargeable with the same offence, if it be an offence, have not been excluded, which shows the inconsistency of the Society. They *dare not* exclude the latter, on account of their "influential circumstances, central position, and power of fashionable patronage," which has "exerted an indefinable, almost imperceptible, yet certain thralldom over the medical community of this commonwealth."

It seems that there were *two* distinct counts to the charge against Dr. B. The first was, for recommending John Williams, then practising in this city as an oculist, and who had performed cures in Dr. B.'s presence, "*which* had baffled the skill of the Boston Surgeons, both of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Eye and Ear Infirmary. The second was for holding a "consultation with a skilful professional friend," who, although "holding *two* Eu-

ropean diplomas," was to be excluded from the advantages to be derived from such consultations; because, forsooth, he (being a stranger in this country, not naturalized, and unacquainted with certain of our customs) had not joined the Massachusetts Medical Society!!! We can easily predict what will be the result of these difficulties—and doubt not they will ultimately be productive of good to the community. We have given the above outline of the treatment which Dr. Bartlett has received, merely to show how far the medical junto in this commonwealth have dared to carry their acts of tyranny. And it appears they are determined to crush a certain portion of those who will not listen to their dicta! This, according to the decision of Judge Edwards, in the case of the journeymen Tailors of New-York, to which Dr. Bartlett alludes, is "a conspiracy."

LAWFUL QUACKERY.—The Editor of the "Botanic Luminary" relates a circumstance—very similar to what frequently happens among the "scientifics"—of the unskilful practice of an M. D., who was called to see a child that had injured his arm by some means. The doctor, after having examined the patient's arm, concluded that the bone was splintered, and accordingly applied a *bandage*—and continued his visits. The child grew worse very fast, and the physician who had examined the arm, called counsel to assist him in cutting out the bone. The knife was employed—when, to the great mortification and disappointment of these learned sons of medical science, they found nothing but a *mustard stalk*, which had been driven into his arm by falling on some that had been cut off, when at play!!! The doctors were *confounded* and *chop-fallen*, and the *by-standers* turned away with disgust at their *learned folly*! Well they might; and well may the Editor of the "Luminary" exclaim: "Oh! thou learned and *diplomatic Faculty*, when will the charms of your *sheep-skin* cease to influence the public mind? O, deliver us!"

The newspapers say that several of the German governments have ordered the apothecaries to keep the hydroxide of iron ready in their shops, in consequence of its being spoken of as a certain antidote to the poison of white arsenic. The "Botanic Sentinel" very justly remarks, that "the German governments had better or-

der the shops not to keep *white arsenic*, and prohibit its use in medical practice—then there will be no necessity for its antidote.” We are of the same opinion; and think, with the “Sentinel,” that “it would be well if Congress would pass a law, prohibiting the use of mercury, and other poisonous minerals, as remedial agents.”

PREMIUM OF \$100 TO THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

With a view to having the question, “Are the discoveries of Dr. Thomson in the healing art of any practical benefit to the community?” accurately and critically examined, the editor of the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel offers a premium of \$100 for the best written essay on this subject. As the number of Thomsonians throughout the United States is now computed at *three millions*, there is great necessity, as the editor of the Sentinel justly observes, “of exposing the errors of their system, if it be not founded on a correct physiological and pathological basis.” The premium is offered under the following CONDITIONS:

1. The writer must be a graduate of some respectable medical college.
2. The essay must contain not less than *fifty* nor more than *one hundred and fifty* common duodecimo pages.
3. Technicalities must be avoided as much as possible; and the essay must be adapted to the comprehension of the people generally.
4. Assertions must not be made in relation to the Thomsonian theory or practice, which cannot be demonstrated upon *established* physiological or pathological principles.
5. The essayist is requested to make an inquiry whether “*Lobelia Inflata*” is a poison: also to institute a comparison between the Thomsonian and Regular practice, in the treatment of the following diseases: 1st. Dyspepsia. 2nd. Fever and Ague. 3rd. Hemorrhage (bleeding) from the lungs. 4th. Apoplexy. 5th. Gout and Rheumatism. 6th. Marasmus, (a wasting away of the body without any apparent disease.) 7th. Yellow Fever. 8th. Consumption of the lungs: the treatment recommended by the essayist, to be in accordance with the doctrines taught in the medical schools of standing and repute.
6. The essayist, in his remarks upon the Thomsonian theory and practice, must avoid *harsh*, or *irrelevant criticism*: Dr. Thomson never made any pretensions to Belles Lettres acquirements; he recorded his experiments in simple and unaffected language, adapted to the comprehension of the people generally; and as his peculiar *phraseology* has nothing to do with the *principles* of his theory, any essay contain-

ing extracts from his book, intended to show that he might have written better English, or his style have been more chaste and classical, will not be submitted to the examining committee in competition for the prize. ☞ The honest and enlightened essayist will bestow an unprejudiced examination upon the medical doctrines of Samuel Thomson, in their *general* and not *partial* sense, without endeavoring to make it appear that they are of *no value*, because not couched in the unintelligible language (to the common reader) of the medical schools.

Essays intended for the premium must be mailed at the respective post offices, on or before the 10th of September ensuing, directed to the editor of the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel. *The postage in all cases must be paid.* A committee of three intelligent medical gentlemen, (opposed to the Thomsonian system) will be selected to award the premium. Their names will be announced in the Sentinel in the course of the ensuing month. All the essays will be considered the property of the editor. If the writer of an essay encloses his name in a sealed envelope, it will not be broken unless he proves to be the successful candidate. ☞ The name of each writer, whether given in the envelope or attached to the essay, must be accompanied with the name of the College at which he graduated. ☞ The premium essay, with extracts from the better written of the others, and a physiological defence of the Thomsonian system, will be published in some convenient form, for general distribution throughout the United States. The money shall be paid to the successful candidate immediately upon the premium being awarded.

Philadelphia, Pa., June 15, 1837.

☞ Mr. Jabez True is appointed agent for the Manual in Salisbury, Ms.; and we hope he will use his best exertions to extend its circulation. There is no prospect of the change he speaks of. We shall publish some portion of his letter in our next. His brother had better attend the sick, as far as he is able, and become an agent at such time as may be most convenient. The sooner he gets an agency, however, the better.

The Sumatrans, it is said, do not mix black pepper with their food, because they think it is heating to the blood; they flavor their rice, however, with Chili or Cayenne pepper, which they say is not heating. There is no accounting for opinions. Lord Bacon, by the by, must have been sparing in the use of pepper; he thought the heat of the blood tended to consume the body, and suggested some cooling process, so as to lower the animal temperature. It is an old saying, that there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous. [Bot. Sentinel.]

☞ Act from PRINCIPLE in all that you do.

TO THE PUBLIC.

JONAS W. CHAPMAN respectfully gives notice that he has on hand, at Dr. THOMSON'S General Depot, No. 33, Washington-street, Boston, every description of PURE BOTANIC MEDICINES used in the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice: prepared by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, the original discoverer and founder of the System, and warranted genuine.

Also, Family Rights, Robinson's Lectures, and other works on the Botanic System—Syringes, &c. &c.—and all the principal articles necessary for general practice or family use.

Any persons wishing to know where may be found Infirmarys and Practitioners who are under the patronage of Dr. Thomson, and are authorised by him, can learn at 33, Washington-street:—where they may also ascertain the names and residences of those who have no authority from Dr. Thomson, and who do not procure their medicines of him. Amongst others who are vending their nostrums as "Thomsonian medicines," might be named H. Winchester, E. Smith, and N. Magoon, Boston; P. D. Badger, Nashua, N. H.; and J. A. Brown, Providence, R. I.; and if the public are injured, (as they naturally must be) by using the deleterious compounds of the above-named individuals, it is hoped that the blame may not attach to the "Thomsonian" system. The articles, also, vended at many of the apothecaries' shops, and other places, manufactured at Methuen, Charlestown, and elsewhere, called "Thomsonian" medicines, are detestable impositions, and cannot be used without injury.

N. B. As Winchester, Brown, Smith, Magoon, and others, have advertised that they keep "*Thomsonian medicines*" for sale, J. W. C. would inform the public, that he has on hand the articles prepared and used by Hosea Winchester, (which are about *as bad* as those used by the majority of Thomsonian impostors,) and which he will sell at HALF PRICE to any one disposed to purchase; viz. Hot Drops, 50 cts. per bottle—Composition Powders, 50 cts. per lb., &c. &c. These articles are prepared by Hosea Winchester; and are warranted equal to those offered by Magoon, Smith, Brown, Badger, the Shakers, and others, at double the price now charged. The public are respectfully invited to call and examine them, and contrast them with those prepared by Dr. Thomson.

J. W. C. will give advice *gratis*, to all who may feel disposed to call upon him; and in all difficult cases will consult with Dr. Thomson. From his extensive acquaintance with the Thomsonian System, and his knowledge of the remarkable cures performed by it, where all other means have failed, he feels confident in recommending it to the afflicted, as the most safe, certain, and speedy means of cure—it never having failed, to his knowledge, upon a curable

case, where it has had a fair trial. Its virtues have been tested upon every form of disease incident to the country, and upon cases the most desperate; upon those absolutely incurable by the regular faculty, and given up by them as such. Of this fact, abundant evidence can and will be given, to all who may desire it, by calling at No. 33, Washington-street.

J. W. C. cannot forbear cautioning the public against impostors, who pretend to practice upon the Thomsonian system, but who do not use a single article prepared by Dr. Thomson. The public might as well be poisoned by the minerals of the diplomatic faculty, as by the spurious and deleterious articles of quacks, calling themselves "Botanic Physicians." *Verbum sat*—"A word to the wise," &c. That it may not be supposed that these remarks are made invidiously, the public are respectfully invited to call and examine for themselves specimens of the "nostrums" alluded to.

Boston, July, 1837.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

As complaints almost daily reach me, against the practice of P. D. Badger, Nashua, N. H.,—representing him as using spurious and deleterious articles as "Thomsonian medicines;" ignorantly, and of course, injudiciously applying steam, &c.,—the public are therefore informed, that said Badger is not, and never has been, an agent for, or had the least authority from me, whatever, to practice; and if he is still unsuccessful, and the cause of injury, by his practice, the bad success or injury cannot justly be attributed to Thomsonism; because he does not procure any medicines of me, or of my preparing, and does not, to my knowledge, know any thing of my System of Practice.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, July, 1837.

N. B. G. E. MORRILL is my agent at Nashua, and he is requested to procure the insertion of this notice in one or more of the papers in that vicinity.

S. T.

NOTICE TO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS.—The editor of "The Delawarean," published at Wilmington, Delaware, proposes to prepare a Newspaper Directory, and therefore asks a favor, that each newspaper publisher will forward him, by mail, one copy of their paper. He intends to arrange them by States, giving their politics, &c. For this favor, each editor sending his paper shall receive one copy of the Directory, as soon as made ready. The advantages of a sheet of this kind to publishers, must be apparent to all.

Genius will excuse a thousand faults; but a stupid rascal is the veriest wretch in existence.

Poetry.

[Original.]

A PORTRAIT

OF THE CHARACTER OF

Mister NATHANIEL S. MAGOON.

Nat. S. Magoon,
 Like to the Moon,
 Doth sev'ral faces [phases] show:
 But said Magoon,
Unlike the Moon,
 A "Gull-Trap" keeps below.
 His "Gull-Trap" sign,
 So large and fine,—
 His large and sightly place,—
 Are by this wretch,
 Design'd to catch,
 'The sick and honest face.
 At fifty-four,—
 Five hundred more,—
 Washington-street he dwells;
 Ground chips and bugs,
 With filthy drugs,
 And *stinking* myrrh he sells.
 Electric shocks,
 To feeble folks,
 'This old impostor gives;—
 Daubs liniment,
 Of stinking scent,
 And by deception lives.
 Physic and pills,
 This old quack fills,
 Into his patients' throats;—
 Palavers loud,
 And tells the crowd,
 His brain in science floats.
 Nat. in disgrace,
 Show'd Thomson's face,
 'To Messrs. Sargent—Coombs;
 This string did pull,
 To catch a gull,
 To take one of his rooms.
 His own *mean* face,
 With a sad grace,
 He afterwards did show;
 They did despise,
 His low-bred lies,
 And from his "trap" did go.
 Let *Doctor* Nat.
 Come out—say that
 He ne'er show'd Thomson's face;—
 Or like a snail,
 Draw in his tail
 And head, in deep disgrace.
 This old quack, he
 Would Agent be,
 Since Thomson did expose,
 And on him fix,
 Those knavish tricks,
 The truth of which he knows.
 His daughters fair,
 And sons, too, are
 Quite far from being bad;
 A pity quite,
 Such children bright,
 Have such an ugly dad.

Unto his wife,
 Of virtuous life,
 Who doth from fraud dissent:
 He's cross—severe,
 And quite austere,
 Since he *her* cash has spent.

His drugs, so rare,
 All mortgaged are,
 His furniture the same;
 His wife—too bad,
 Some thousands had,
 Which Nat. has spent in vain.

An honest man,
Squire Nat. took in,
 As partner in his shop:
 At two months' word,
 From Mister Ward,
 Agreed to cash his stock.

Six months have pass'd,
 Since Ward has ask'd,
 Fulfilment of his claim;
 But Nat. his word,
 Doth not regard,—
 He falsifies the same.

Squire Nat. agreed,—
 A contract made,
 His "Gull-Trap" to let out:
 Infirmary,
 'T was then to be,
 And *gulling* all left out.

A writing drawn,
 Nat. said he'd sign—
 'The man moved in straightway:
 But Nat. "funk'd out,"
 And lied so stout,
 'The man soon moved away.

This *gull-trap* Nat.,
 Did once tell that,
 He'd been "a *country Squire*;
 A noted man,—
 Did Justice scan.—
 From office did retire.

If *Magistrate*,
 As he doth state,
 He formerly had been;
 There is no doubt,
 He was *kick'd* out
 Of office, for his sin.

Ye ladies fair,
 Of Nat. beware,—
 Repulse his foul embrace;
 Let him not kiss,
 But at him hiss,
 And thus escape disgrace.

Like William Platt,*
Squire, Doctor Nat.,
 To justice should be brought;
 And all his crimes,
 Wrote down in rhymes,
 Till *Justice* he is taught.

ONE WHO HAS BEEN GULLED.

Boston, June 1, 1837.

* Wm. Platt, Esq., the notorious land-pirate, of Barnegat, N. J., who is now in the State Prison.

SOLACE. — "Tom," said a Benedict to a happy Bachelor, "why do n't you choose a wife to be a *solace* in your afflictions?" Because I choose myself," said 'Tom, "to be a *solus* in my afflictions."

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, AUGUST 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 10.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*,
By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston.

TOBACCO.

We perceive by the public papers, that Perkins and Marvin, publishers, of this city, have issued a little work entitled, "An Essay on the influence of Tobacco upon Life and Health, by R. D. Mussey, M. D." "In this lecture," observes the editor of the *Mercantile Journal*, "Dr. Mussey has handled tobacco without gloves. He has treated the filthy, poisonous weed as it deserves. And to those individuals, who have good sense enough to be aware of the evils which attend the use of this inodorous narcotic, but who want the *resolution* necessary to abstain from its use, we commend a perusal of this pamphlet. In the mean time we would call their attention to the following extracts:—

"The habit of using tobacco is uncleanly and impolite. It is uncleanly from the foul odor, the muddy nostril, and darkly-smeared lip it confers, and from the encouragement it gives to the habit of spitting, which, in our country, would be sufficiently common and sufficiently loathsome without it.

"True politeness," said a distinguished English scholar, "is kindness, kindly expressed." The using of tobacco, especially by smoking, is any thing but kindness or the kindly expression of it, when it creates an atmosphere, which, whether it comes directly from the pipe, the cigar, or deeply imbued clothing, or worse than alligator breath, is absolutely insupportable to many, who do not use it, causing depression of strength, dizziness, headache, sickness at the stomach, and sometimes vomiting. By what rule of politeness, nay, on what principle of common justice may I poison the atmosphere my neighbor is compelled to breathe, or so load it with an unhealthy and

loathsome material as to make him uncomfortable or wretched so long as I am in his company? What would be said of the physician, who, having acquired a strong liking for assafoetida, should allow himself in the constant habit of chewing it, to the great annoyance, from his foul breath, of many of his patients, as well as more or less of the healthy individuals of the families who employ him? Or how would a *gentleman* traveller be regarded, who should not only keep his breath constantly imbued with this assafoetida, but also insist upon spurning successive mouthfuls of the tincture of it upon the floor of a stage coach, or of the cabin of a steamboat?—Would he be commended, either for his cleanliness, politeness, or kindness? Nay, would he be tolerated in such a violation of the principles of good breeding? I have seen numbers, who have been made sick, dizzy, and pale, by the breath of a smoker; and I have seen a person vomit out of a stage-coach, from the *influence* of that indescribable breath, which results from alcoholic liquor and tobacco smoke.

"How painful to see young men in our scientific and literary institutions—men, who are soon to lead in our national councils, to shape the morals and the manners of the circles of society, in which they will move—making themselves downright sick, day after day, and week after week, in order to form a habit of taking a disgusting poison, steeping their nerves and their intellects in its narcotic influence, the direct tendencies of which are to impair their health, to enfeeble their minds, and to disqualify them for a place in cleanly and polite society."

We fully subscribe to the above sentiments on the impoliteness and uncleanness of the use of tobacco. Of its injuriousness, we have had practical experience; having made use of it more or less for ten years past, in three different forms—chewing, smoking and snuffing. And we make the mortifying acknowledgment, in order that our testimony may have more weight, as being based upon experimental knowledge. We are frequently asked, what is the *least* injurious form in which tobacco can be used? We can only reply, that when chewed the injury is more directly upon the stomach; if smoked, upon the blood; if taken as snuff, upon the eye-sight; and it

is, therefore, difficult to determine which of these three ways would, on the whole, be likely to be productive of the *least* injury. Some people use snuff for weak eyes; but we are satisfied that it can only injure them. It may, and does, produce a momentary excitement, which seemingly benefits them; but the excitement, like that produced by alcoholic liquors, is soon over, and a more and more frequent repetition becomes necessary, until all sensibility is lost, and an irretrievable injury sustained. It has *then* become a confirmed habit; and a person finds himself instinctively filling his nostrils with the filthy article, without experiencing either the excitement or the pleasant titillation, which first induced him to use it. Chewing and Smoking, by inducing profuse spitting, and also by their influence upon the blood, are far more injurious to the physical constitution and general health, than snuff. Snuff, we consider the most dirty, but least injurious to the general health, of the three forms we have named. It is, also, the most difficult to abandon, when the habit of its use has become confirmed. Besides the injury to the eyes, which the use of snuff occasions, it also causes catarrh, various diseases of the head, and (as some have believed) consumption. Smoking and chewing,—particularly the latter,—cause a faint, sinking and hankering feeling at the stomach, which nothing can relieve but the nauseous weed. We could say much more on this subject—more, perhaps, than our readers might think necessary,—but at the present time, we will merely advise those who have never used tobacco, always to abstain from it; and those who have used it to—follow our example, and leave it off! Read the following, which we cut from an exchange paper:

AWFUL WARNING.—If Tobacco chewers are to be visited with the disgusting and fatal disease of *Cancer*, we shall be known as a dirty tongued nation should the following be correct:

TOBACCO.—Mr. John C. Warren, in a recent work on Tumors, states that every man who chews tobacco, may consider himself particularly exposed to the danger of having a cancer on his lip or tongue.

ONE WORD MORE.—Many persons think that tobacco preserves the teeth, and prevents danger of contagion, or sickness by the inhalation of infectious atmosphere; but a little pure water and a tooth-brush applied the last thing

at night and first thing in the morning, will answer a better purpose in effecting the first object—and any thing which will produce constant spitting will as completely effect the second; for there is no virtue in the tobacco in repelling disease, and there are a great many other things which would answer the purpose quite as well, that are not in their nature injurious.

DEPLORABLE CONSEQUENCES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF MINERAL POISONS AS MEDICINES.—Almost every paper which we have taken up of late, has contained accounts of the most melancholy circumstances, which have resulted from the use of the life-destroying articles of the established practice. We will give a short synopsis of these cases; and beg our readers will reflect upon the disastrous consequences of their fashionable poisoning system,—and they can then form some adequate idea of the deleteriousness of the drugs, which are daily dealt out by the diplomatic faculty.

A lady in New York, taken with a common cold, sent for a physician, who bled her, and administered one grain of *morphine*. Result—death in six hours. A post mortem examination was held, when it was decided that the *morphine* caused her death!

Another: An inquest was held on the body of John O'Brien, aged 26 years, found dead at the house No. 107, Anthony street. The deceased, it appeared, resided at the above place, and had returned home the evening previous, in a state of intoxication. His mother was lying sick, and on a table by her bedside, stood a phial containing an ounce of morphine. The deceased, either from ignorance of the nature of the drug, or from the stupidity of drunkenness, supposed that the medicine was good for his inebriety, if it was for his mother's complaint, and swallowed the whole of it; and the consequence was, that at 5 o'clock, the following morning, he was a corpse. A verdict in accordance with these facts, was accordingly rendered. Such would not have been the result, had lobelia, or any other botanic medicine, been thus inadvertently taken. How long will it be, before the use of these potent ministers of death shall be abolished! How many more lives must be sacrificed at the altar of pride, prejudice, and self-interest! Are there no means—will nothing—will not *these facts alone* suffice,

to open the eyes of the people, and rescue them from the vortex of ruin, to which they are so rapidly blindly rushing? Let it not be said, that such articles can be used with benefit, when prescribed by the skill and judgment of a regular physician. Such is not the fact!—They are, in their very *nature* destructive to life, and no learning, no skill, no possible combination of them, can *change* their nature, or prevent their executing—to the extent of the quantity given—the horrid office-work of death!

Another case, was that of a lady in child-bed. The physician administered *ergot*—result, death of both mother and child in a few hours. Said we not true, above? Here is a case of death from under the physician's own hand—*caused by an article of his own prescription!* So in the first case stated: so, also, in hundreds of other cases, known and unknown. We have known an instance of butchery, which followed the administration of the *ergot*—the bare recollection of which produces a thrilling sensation of horror!

Another—that of Mr. James Thompson, merchant, of Indiana. He had visited Philadelphia to purchase goods. He had been for some days unwell; not so much so, however, as to prevent his attending to business. On Monday evening of the week, he called at an apothecary's shop, (the precise one he said he could not recollect, being a stranger in the city) to buy a little cream-of-tartar. He took the dose, and was soon convinced, by its effects, that he had swallowed poison. He died the Tuesday morning following, and an examination of the stomach, proved that he had taken *arsenic*, instead of the simple medicine he had bespoken! He has left an interesting family—a wife and several children—to mourn his melancholy and untimely demise. We do not envy those persons who dabble in mineral poisons, the feelings which such recitals as the above must necessarily produce. Does it not appear contrary to common sense, that articles which are productive of such disastrous consequences when taken inadvertently, can be efficacious in the cure of disease? It does to us.

Another: Mrs. Phebe Whitlock, of N. York, met a melancholy and cruel death by taking a quantity of *arsenic*, mistaking it for magnesia. Mrs. W. with her husband and child, boarded with Mr. Samuel G. Dean, No. 27, Renwick-street; and being somewhat unwell, thought

she would take a dose of magnesia; for which purpose she got some milk from Mrs. Dean.—The magnesia, with other medicines, was in a closet, and some arsenic which had been obtained for some purpose or other, was left in the same closet, enclosed in a paper, on which was a label of "arsenic, poison," in large printed letters. Mrs. W. went to the closet, without a light, about 8 o'clock in the evening, and committed the fatal error of taking the arsenic instead of the magnesia; and she swallowed full two table-spoons full of that deadly poison. In the course of fifteen minutes, she began to feel very ill, and fearing she had committed an error, a physician was sent for, who immediately detected the deplorable mistake. Death closed the awful sufferings of the unfortunate victim in about four hours after swallowing the mineral. Oh, would that such deadly drugs were expelled from the walks of civilized men! How many heart-rending pangs would be saved!

The Philadelphia News gives an account of a young woman of dissolute character, who, in a fit of jealousy, obtained a quantity of corrosive sublimate, which she administered to her sister. It seems that she called at the druggist's, and demanded six cents worth of the article, and made positive declaration that it had been ordered by a regular physician. On reaching home, she measured out two tea-spoons full of the powder, and administered them to her sister, dissolved in a glass of water. Immediately after taking the fatal dose, the sister was seized with the deadly symptoms consequent upon this powerful agent, and although medical assistance was called in, she was not expected to survive the deadly potion. Such results will always continue to take place, unless these powerful agents—so often resorted to for the purposes of self-destruction and murder (their only legitimate uses)—are prohibited from being offered for sale. And we hope this may soon be.

Morrison, the London Hygeist, lately sued the Dispatch newspaper for a libel upon his Universal Medicine, and recovered 200*l.*, (about \$900) damages. During the trial, a grocer named Pearce, testified that he had taken eighteen thousand of the pills in two years, at a cost of \$100, but that they were well worth the money. One of the lawyers inquired, "Pray, how did they affect you?" Witness—"They produced a great discharge from my nose, which lasted for three weeks, and then I was cured!" This almost equals Prince Brandreth's "Vegetable Universal Pills."

[Original.]

A WONDERFUL CURE!

THE EFFECTS OF MINERAL AND DR. SAMUEL THOMSON'S BOTANIC MEDICINE COMPARED.

Dr. A. WATKINS, wishing to promote the cause of pure philanthropy, appeals to all persons, who think, examine and act for themselves,—who have the candor to cast aside the pride of learning,—and the moral courage to break the shackles that the prejudices of education have imposed upon them, on the momentous subject of health and disease—life and death—to

Look on this picture :

That of a youth brought to his Infirmary by his parents, in the most deplorable condition,—his arms being as useless as though they were broken at the shoulders,—his legs, as though they were broken at the hips, having no power to move even a finger;—affected, moreover, with a violent cough, loss of appetite and flesh, and in a word, an entire prostration of the physical and mental energies of life—all of which was the result of a continuous series of experimenting with mineral drugs on his frame, that had reduced him to the brink of the grave—an object of deep anxiety to his friends, and of true sympathy to every beholder. — Such was the state of the lad, when brought to my Infirmary.

And then on this.

The limbs of the youth restored to their wonted elasticity and activity,—the cough expelled,—his appetite renovated,—his flesh restored,—and the whole corporeal and mental vitality renewed, in all the buoyancy of youthful freshness and vigor, under the mild and salubrious action of Dr. S. Thomson's vegetable remedies. This is the condition of the lad at the present moment. Can any who read this, longer doubt the efficacy of the Botanic medicines—or the blasting effects of mineral drugs? Will not the contrast thus placed before them, convince them on the point beyond all controversy? If not,—if such evidence as has already been presented, is not enough to convince,—I will add the following:—

The undersigned hereby certify, that in July, A.D. 1835, his and her son, Jeremiah Lord, aged 14 years, was assailed with what the eminent physicians of the place termed a chronic rheumatism, and was under their treatment for the same, until the spring following. But instead of expelling it from his frame, the medicine they prescribed fastened it in his back, which in August following terminated in a shock of paralysis, that deprived him of the use of his limbs, and rendered him helpless as an infant. We had the aid of several physicians of preeminent skill and knowledge of their profession, who attended him constantly for some time; but they neither could ascertain what the disease was, nor drive it from his system. They at last left him in a very debilitated state, when he was fast approaching dissolution. At this crisis—

when all hope of his recovery had become extinct—the fame of the Botanic System of Practice, and the skill of Dr. A. Watkins therein, reached our ears. We took our son (Jeremiah) to Dover, N. H., and placed him under his care, at the Infirmary, where the mild, safe and speedy action of these remedies not only saved him from the tomb, but restored him to sound health. He is now pursuing his avocation, perfectly well. It is our deliberate opinion, that too much can neither be said or written, in praise of Dr. Samuel Thomson's botanic medicine, except ascribing to them the power to raise the dead. We are, moreover, impelled to make the foregoing statement, as an offering of gratitude to Dr. Watkins, for the valuable services he has rendered, as our conviction of the incomparable superiority of the Thomsonian medicines over mineral drugs, and from a deep feeling of responsibility and duty on our part, to spread before the community the benefits they have imparted to our family, for the good of the afflicted throughout the community.

S. S. LORD,
MARY LORD.

York, (Maine,) 1837.

[Original.]

Sandown, June 15, 1837.

Dr. S. THOMSON,—Dear Sir:

I have been a constant reader of the Manual since its commencement, and am pleased with the proposed plan of publishing it semi-monthly. The people are beginning in this quarter to look into the subject of medicine, and are many of them convinced of the superiority of the Thomsonian over any other. I purchased of you six copies of Robinson's Lectures in Dec. last, which I have lent constantly, and I find that the reading of them has converted many to Thomsonism. I do not know of any method that would do more good in spreading the system, than for every Thomsonian to keep a few of those books, and lend them. This is a thinly inhabited district of country, but I should think that thirty or forty had changed their opinion on the subject of medicine, in my neighborhood, since I was appointed agent in Dec. last. Whenever people will try the medicines, they always come out in favor of them. I am myself surprised at their wonderful power and safety. And I think the time is not very distant, when this part of the country will use no other among the main body of the people.

ELIPHALET HUNT.

Another of our correspondents does not like the "proposed plan" of issuing the Manual semi-monthly. We cannot now decide what new arrangement (if any) will be made at the close of the present volume. If the Manual should not, however, be issued semi-monthly, it is quite probable that some measures will be devised and put into execution, which will en-

hance its value, and be satisfactory on all hands.

—ED. MANUAL.

[Original.]

Extract from a letter, dated

Salisbury, June 10th, 1837.

The father of my brother's wife is in his 62d year, and was taken with a lung fever on the 28th of last April. My brother's wife went to see him on the 30th, and thought his case the same as my father's in his last sickness. She thought he could not live, if the fever run its usual time. She urged him to take the Thomsonian medicine; he consented; they did not know where they could find a Thomsonian physician, and therefore sent for my brother, (who has had some experience in the medicine,) to assist them. Patient took one course on the 30th, which did not remove the cause, but was somewhat better. 2d May, worse; took another course, which did not appear to remove the cause; but he still thought he was better. Gave him hot medicine through the night, during which time he was restless and oppressed for breath. In the morning, my brother and all the family thought he was much better. But all his old friends in the neighborhood were violently opposed to the Thomsonian system, and held a kind of caucus at the next house early in the morning, May 3d, and it was said that two M. D.'s met there with them. Then his friends came in, one after another, telling him that he would not live if he took Thomsonian medicine,—that he was burning up with a fever,—and that we were enraging the disorder. They aroused his former prejudice, which had about left him, and he consented to send for an M. D. in the forenoon of May 3d. After M. D. had spit out his venom, my wife asked him what was the matter with her father? He instantly answered, that "he would have had a lung fever, if you had not given him this stuff." In consequence of leaving his medicine; and giving him cooling stuff, and starving him about a fortnight, he remained in lingering condition, but finally got about again. He is now far from being well. Notwithstanding all their rage, it has been the means of opening the eyes of the blind. His wife and children are fully persuaded that the Thomsonian medicine was the means of saving his life.

Yours, affectionately,

JABEZ TRUE.

The fang of the viper, says Paley, is a clear and curious example of mechanical contrivance. It is a perforated tooth, loose at the root; in its quiet state, lying down flat upon the jaw, but furnished with a muscle, which, with a jerk, and by the pluck, as it were of a string, suddenly erects it. Under the tooth, close to its root, and communicating with the perforation, lies a small bag, containing the venom. When the fang is raised, the closing of the jaw presses

its root against the bag underneath, and the force of this compression sends out the fluid, with a considerable impetus, through the tube in the middle of the tooth. What more unequivocal or effectual apparatus could be devised for the double purpose of at once inflicting the wound, and injecting the poison? Yet, though lodged in the mouth, it is so constituted, as, in its offensive and quiescent state, not to interfere with the animal's ordinary office of receiving its food. It has been observed, also, that none of the harmless serpents, the black-snake, the blind-worm, &c., have these fangs, but teeth of an equal size, not moveable as this is, but fixed into the jaw.

[Original.]

Saco, June 6th, 1837.

FRIEND WATKINS,—Dear Sir: You request me to forward you a certificate of the cure effected on me at your Infirmary, which I do most cheerfully, hoping you will and do enjoy, as I do, the richest of blessings, good health.

Respectfully, yours, EZEKIEL CUTTER.

TO AN INTELLIGENT PUBLIC.

In April, 1836, after taking repeated colds, they settled in my throat, and formed a large ulcer, which continued to swell and gather to such a degree, that I could not swallow any medicine, not even a drop of tea; if I attempted, it would run out of my nose. I grew worse for three days. My case now became alarming; and having some knowledge of the safety and efficacy of the Thomsonian System of Practice, my friends became resolved for me to go to Dover. Accordingly, my brother-in-law went with me to Dr. A. Watkins's. My case was stated to him by my brother, (as I could not speak so as to be understood), and it was impossible for me to swallow the least thing, as the ulcer in my throat was so large, that nothing could pass it, but would run out of my nose. Dr. W. said he had a remedy by way of injections, and would undertake. He immediately commenced, and gave me not the least thing in any other way than by injection. The operation was very severe, and it puked me thoroughly at intervals, for about two hours. Then I fell into a sound sleep, and slept about the same length of time. When I awoke, I could swallow with ease, and called for drink; ginger tea was given me by the attentive nurse. I drank freely, without inconvenience, and soon after a bowl of milk porridge. I was still hungry, was helped to get up, and went down stairs and partook of supper with the family and patients. All this took place in the space of six or eight hours!!! Set up till bed-time, went to bed, enjoyed a good night's rest, which I had not done for four or five nights before; next morning, I was well enough to walk a mile—then took stage, and went home to Great Falls, and have not experienced a sick day since.

There is still something more, which we did

not know of at the time. For the last five or six years, (up to the time of my going to the Infirmary), I was constantly troubled with the heart-burn, and often so distressing as to oblige me to get up at night, and sometimes it would cause me to vomit. It is now more than a year since I was at the Infirmary, the first six months of which I never had a return of the disease, and since that but a few times slightly.

It is a moral duty I owe to the public, to proclaim the above. And I feel emotions of gratitude alike to the venerable founder of the system, and the skilful practitioner who gave me relief; and therefore cordially grant you liberty to make any use of this you please.

Your friend and servant,

EZEKIEL CUTTER.

As respects a certificate from Mr. Bridges, he says too much praise cannot be bestowed on Dr. Samuel Thomson's mode of Practice, and he gives full liberty to use his name in testimony of its virtues. The outline of his case is given in the following hastily written

CERTIFICATE.

For several years, I was troubled with a bad humor, which at last, as the faculty told me, (for I employed a goodly number of them,) settled in my stomach, causing weakness and indigestion. Previous to my going to the Infirmary, say 18 months, all my food distressed me, and sometimes I got no sleep on account of it. As to food, I could not eat one good meal in a day. I went to Dr. Watkins's, where I remained under his care a few days, and was entirely cured. It is now three months since, and I never enjoyed so good health in my life, as I do now. I can and do eat more at each meal now, than I did in a whole day before. I am also 30 lbs. in flesh more weighty.

I heartily wish you a long life and happiness.

GEORGE BRIDGES.

Saco, Maine, 1837.

SMALL POX.—We have had occasionally something to do with this complaint, and have found it to be one of the most easily managed diseases that we know of. We attended a young man a few days since, under the following circumstances. He was taken, on Saturday, with a pain in the back and head, and a slight sickness in the stomach. The only medicine which he took until Tuesday morning, was cayenne pepper, and our hot powders.

On Monday, there was a slight breaking out on the skin, which somewhat alarmed the family, and in the evening one of the oldest regular physicians was called in to name the complaint. He could not then decide, but stated that he could tell for a certainty in the morning. He accordingly called, and pronounced it the *SCARLATINA*. The family had previously requested our attendance, and on informing the physician of it, he replied that the warming medicine would not answer in his case, and left. Happening to be absent from home, our assistant,

Dr. Farwell, called on him, and ordered the warming medicine continued, a warm, stimulating enema to relieve the bowels, and an emetic of Lobelia to stimulate the system into action, and throw the disease on the surface, which had the desired effect. On our return the next day, we called on him, and found that he was completely broken out with small-pox. At this time, the pain in the back and head had nearly subsided; and excepting the effects on the surface, occasioned by the eruption, he was quite comfortable. We ordered an enema daily; the frequent use of the warming medicines, with milk porridge or water gruel for nourishment. He went through the whole course of the complaint without the least pain, after the premonitory symptoms disappeared, and was not confined to his bed a single day.—*Bot. Adv.*

ERGOT IN PARTURIENT CASES.—In parturient cases how does labor progress? We answer, by throes; or, what is the same, by successive contractions and relaxations of the uterus. These contractions commence in the upper part of the uterus, opposite the *os tincæ* or mouth, and propel the child towards the opening, and finally through it into the vagina, &c. This constitutes what may be termed *the natural action of the uterus*. But, from various causes, this proper or natural action becomes deranged, and nature requires assistance. What, then, are the indications which nature points out to the physician? They are to exhibit such agents as will relax and dilate the parts, and facilitate the easy passage of the child; impart or restore the necessary strength for this important labor, and regulate the deranged action of the uterus, so as to cause the throes to be strong and periodical. Will *secale cornutum* (commonly called ergot) do this? No. This poison induces a continued and violent spasmodic action of the uterus, with no intermission, until all its force is expended. This continued pressure upon the child, is sufficient to cause death, even though no poison should be imparted to it, and it is a fact, that many do die from this cause alone.

But this violent action endangers the life of the mother, also, from its liability to rupture the parts before they are sufficiently dilated, and from the production of hæmorrhage, which those who administer the agent cannot control. All these bad effects may arise from what is termed a common dose. When an overdose is administered, the vital energies are prostrated, and both child and mother are sacrificed.

How can any conscientious practitioner, who feels the responsibility that rests upon him in parturient cases, ever prescribe such a deadly poison?—*Thom. Vind.*

A SON WITH FOUR LEGS.—In the village of Wymonpham, near Melton Mowbray, England, not long since, Mrs. George, the wife of Ralph George, a respectable shoemaker, was delivered of a son who has four legs and four arms, and is in other respects

much deformed. The head and bust are well shaped. Up to the present time both child and mother are doing well, and there appears no reason to suppose that the child will not live.

CASE OF OBSTETRICS.—My son's wife was taken in labor, and the doctor was called in. After the child was born, a desperate flooding followed. He stopped it by what they call mechanical art—by using the sponge and cold water, and applying one wet cloth after another. She appeared tolerably smart until next day, when she was taken with very violent pains. He commenced bleeding and starving. She lay two months not expected to live; then got a little better. In a week she was taken worse again. Then the doctor called the complaint chronic inflammation in the womb. He commenced giving medicine, and she grew worse. The second Dr. Medicus was called in. They made examinations, and passed their opinion that nothing of any account could be done only by taking laudanum, cupping, blistering, and having patience for three months. She said, "I can live no longer on patience: my misery is so great I can no longer endure it." She was willing to try the Thomsonian medicine. She sent for me. As I arrived at the door, I met Dr. Medicus. I told him I had come to try if I could do any thing for her. He said he had done all he could. I believe it, sir. He said: If you can do any thing for her of any account in less than three months, you can do more than I can. I commenced with a full course of medicine. Her death was expected every day for two weeks, and the cry was: "Now he has come, she will soon be no more." Some of her friends came to see the last of her. Her companion carried her to the chair, and supported her while she went through the operation. The third course she could stand and be steamed. I carried her through six courses of medicine in two weeks, which restored her health, to the surprise of all her neighbors.—*Cor. Thom. Rec.*

FLOODING.—Last year, 1836, I had a case of flooding, which had been for fourteen months treated by an M. D. who left the patient worse than when he began with her, though he did not cease to administer his medicines from the time he commenced, till I took charge of her. She was a relative of about 60 or 65 years of age. Nature had for years before this, stopped on her, but had recommenced when this M. D. was called in. For fourteen months he worked, as he said, to stop the flooding, but with an entire failure, for it was not stopped for one day during the time. By this time she was reduced to nothing but skin and bones, and that without the slightest color. When I was admitted to see her, I found her prostrated on the bed; she could not for a minute be raised from the pillow without fainting away, was taking pills, but of what, I do not know, with hot bricks at her feet, and cold cloths at the lower part of the abdomen, which clotted the blood, and caused

its discharge to be as painful as that of being delivered by childbirth. I began with her, and stopped the flooding in about 36 hours, and then continued the courses several times, and then the lot bitters for about three weeks, when she was restored to good health. This I can, if needed, produce a certificate to prove.—*lb.*

[From the Charlottesville (N. C.) Journal.]

We are indebted to a friend for the following notice of a worm being generated in the human body. We have no hesitation in saying that the circumstances as related are strictly true, because the same circumstances were mentioned in our presence by another gentleman, whose veracity cannot be questioned. It is a subject, we think, well worthy the attention of medical men.

A CURIOUS FACT.—Mr. Editor: There lives in this country a man who for the last ten years has been afflicted with a sore on the side of his face below the eye. The diseased part at times would become very itchy, and the skin would slightly break so as to bleed a little. The sore gradually enlarged and became more unpleasant and put on a cadaverous appearance. A few weeks since he was in Camden and showed his cancer (as he called it) to a physician, who gave him a powder to be applied in the form of a plaster. When he returned he made the application according to directions, which gave him excessive pain. After several applications the place became so painful he was unable to bear it—a very unusual sensation taking place like the motion of a worm crawling, he took the plaster off, called for a looking glass, examined the place carefully, and found that the medicine or some other cause had made a small hole in the skin, which discovered something white—he caught it with his fingers and pulled out a worm three quarters of an inch long and about the usual thickness for a worm of that length. It lived for about an hour after it was ejected from its tenement, and then expired. Its appearance was very much the same with that of the sawyer worm—its head was dark and hard and not so much flattened as the sawyer—its tail was hard and provided with bills like pincers, it had six feet or legs, three on each side. The worm is preserved and may be seen at any time by calling on the individual, living 12 or 15 miles from this place, near the road leading to Wadesborough. We inquired particularly whether there had been any hole or fracture of the skin, that would admit the entrance of the worm from without, and was assured that there was none: so that it must have generated there. The affected flesh has dropped out, and the individual is doing well. The above facts may be relied on, although they seem strange. Can any of our medical friends give an explanation of this unusual phenomenon? Have medical writers recorded similar instances of worms

being generated, and disturbing in like manner the external portion of the body?

TO CURE FEVER AND AGUE.—Give a full course, then steam, and dash with cold water; rub dry and dress. Give hot medicine (No. 2 in molasses) many times a day. If the patient sweats, rub *dry* until there is a disposition to constant fever, when the disease will be subdued, and the medicine may be gradually diminished. Ague and fever patients are constantly losing their heat, the skin being so much relaxed by free perspirations. Keep the skin rubbed dry, and the internal remedies will take effect—rather, the power gained by the vital efforts will be preserved.—*Thom. Rec.*

OLD SORE.—A negro man, in 1834, had a bile on the thigh. Injected No. 6, healed very soon, and remained so one year, when it broke out in three other places, all running a watery humor. We took him through a good many courses of medicine, and again thought him well. In June last, his knee swelled much, and his old sores commenced running again, and still continue, though he has been through, I think, 100 courses of medicine. There is now one sore near the hip joint, and one about half way to the knee. Injections into one are discharged at the other. They are small, and discharge a large quantity of apparently healthy looking matter. In other respects, he appears to enjoy good health.

Advice.—We suppose that the bone is probably affected. We should therefore keep the passage cleansed by injections, first of soapsuds, then of bayberry and No. 6, then of slippery elm. We should then dress it with absorbent poultices, with the intention to keep it open, that it may heal *at the bottom first*. We should continue the poulticing, and occasional coursing, till the healing is complete.—*Ib.*

HOW TO AVOID DEAFNESS.—Few need be told, that if they wish to hear well, and avoid deafness, they must guard against wet feet, thin shoes, cold currents and draughts of air, keeping on wet clothes, sleeping in damp rooms, going into the night air from heated apartments, living in marshy and low situations, &c. Shunning these things, those who would retain their hearing unimpaired till old age, should attend to their general health, take as much out-door exercise as they can, breathe pure air, live on plain but nutritious food, keep the mind calm and tranquil, and be especially careful to prevent constipation of the bowels.

SUBSTITUTE FOR COFFEE.—The seeds of grapes are very generally used in Germany, as a substitute for coffee, and they make a very excellent substitute. When pressed, they yield a quantity of oil, and afterwards, when boiled, furnish a liquid very similar to that produced by coffee. Its flavor is delicious.

¶ Although we do not design to devote any considerable portion of the Manual to articles of a miscellaneous character—to the exclusion of those perhaps more useful—yet we cannot forbear giving place to the following, with which it is next to impossible not to be pleased.—*ED. MANUAL.*

BEAUTIFUL SIMILE.

BY F. H. DAVIDGE.

We never behold young and lovely females tending flowers, that we are not struck with the great appropriateness of the association. Pure and untainted by the vices of the world, they are the proper guardians, and fitting protectors of the emblems of the loveliness and virtues of which they are the living depositories. In the spring-tide of existence, their moral and intellectual endowments are just budding and shooting forth, while their physical charms are growing into that state of matured grace and perfect fulness which is to cause them to be loved and admired. Their feelings are in all their freshness, unscathed by the chilling influence of disappointed hopes or unrequited affection, manifest themselves with an ardor unchecked by the dictates of jealous prudence, or the wary suggestions of calculating, self-protecting interest.—For them to think is to give utterance to their thoughts, and to feel is to give form and expression to their emotions, with a guileless simplicity, unconscious of the possibility of misconstruction, and fearless, because unsuspecting, of ill-natured misapprehensions. In the flower may be seen the exquisite tints of their own fairness and beauty—in the natural tastefulness of the arrangement of its leaves and spreading shoots, emblems of their own heaven-born graces.—Whilst like them they are lovely beyond expression, like them they must bloom for the appointed season, and like them decline into the sear and yellow leaf of existence. To both the term of being is short, and exposed to infinite vicissitudes. The breath of the north wind may ere long scatter before it the yet young and tender beauties of the one, or the scorching rays of the mid-day's sun cause them to shrivel and fall, to be trodden under foot, whilst of the other, all the charms and budding promise may be destroyed by the inhuman whisper of a censorious world, or the blighting influences of passions unrestrained. Fair and fragile alike, it is proper they should accompany one another, and happy is it for her who learns from such companionship, how exquisitely beautiful and how unspeakably delicate is female loveliness, which to be preserved must be guarded with more than a miser's care.

BOHEMIAN WOMEN.—In every corner of some parts of Germany, each female, from the maid-servant to the mistress, has a spinning wheel; and there is not a good house-wife in Bohemia who would not consider herself disgraced, if she did not spin within her establishment all the linen articles necessary for her household.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—Milton.

BOSTON, AUGUST 15, 1837.

Our readers will perceive, that in this number we have mounted upon our editorial banner, a new EAGLE, bearing the *Thomsonian coat of arms*. He may be seen, as it were, soaring majestically over the world, with healing in his wings. In one talon is borne a sprig of Lobelia, surmounted with the word LOBELIA—in the other, a cluster of Cayenne Peppers, surmounted with the word CAYENNE. The appropriateness of this design will be at once seen, as the *Botanic* is truly the *American System of Medicine*; and as Liberty, Peace and Plenty preside where the noble bird holds his way through the political horizon, so may Health, Happiness and Long Life prevail wherever the THOMSONIAN EAGLE shall spread his wings. And as our fathers marched forth, "conquering and to conquer," under the then young and tender pinions of the American Eagle, so shall the Thomsonians move onward to glorious victory under his now "broad and full-grown wing."

LET IT BE DISTINCTLY UNDERSTOOD, that at the close of the present volume, we shall stop sending the Manual to all who shall be indebted for either the first or second volumes. Those who are now in arrears can remit their several amounts, and also pay for the third volume, at the same time, which will perhaps save the additional trouble and expense of writing twice. We hope to have large accessions to our coming volume. Will our friends be looking about, and getting as many names as they can? (of those who'll "pay up!"). The terms of the Manual will be the same as heretofore; has n't it been worth the price? Less than two cents a week!—Who can't pay that?

Having determined upon what alterations will be made in the forthcoming volume of the Manual, we shall publish the prospectus in our next. It will be issued monthly, as usual; terms the same as at present; its value will be much increased.

THOMSONIAN CONVENTION.

The friends of THOMSONISM are hereby notified, that a Convention will be holden at Providence, R. I., on the *second Monday in November*, to take into consideration such measures as may be proposed for the advancement of the cause; and, also, as a primary object, to consider and act upon the propositions contained in the Address of the Editor of the "Thomsonian Manual," published in the July number of that journal; and such other matters as may come before them.

Agents, and others interested, (particularly those in the N. E. States,) are requested to attend.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, July 20, 1837.

THOMSONIANS ATTENTION!

The members of the "THOMSONIAN ASSOCIATION" are requested to meet at the Depository, No. 33, Washington-street, on the Evening of the *first Monday in September*, at half past 7 o'clock, to choose delegates to attend the Convention that is to be holden at Providence, R. I., in November; and also to attend to such business as may then be brought before them. A punctual attendance is desired.

M. R. POLLARD, *Secretary*.

Boston, July 20th, 1837.

In a future number we shall make some suggestions and remarks on the objects of the Convention called above, which we are prevented from doing now, by an unusual press of business. Meanwhile, we hope the different Thomsonian Societies, and Thomsonians individually, will be on the alert, and will take active and efficient measures on the subject.—ED. MANUAL.

P. S. We shall hereafter make known why Providence, R. I., has been selected for the meeting of the Convention.—ED.

A pretty lengthy reply to Dr. Stebbins's pamphlet is in type, but is necessarily deferred. Do n't be impatient, Doctor: the most important things first!

"An Observer," and "Stephen F. Fowler," also in type, unavoidably deferred.

"Consistency" in our next.

Dr. I. J. SPERRY is appointed agent for the Manual, for Hartford, Ct., and its vicinity. We shall publish the remainder of his communication in our next, and should be pleased to have him become a regular contributor to our pages.

Dr. B. W. SPERRY, is appointed agent for the Manual at New Haven, Ct., and vicinity. We shall publish his very interesting letter in our next. It gives us pleasure to state that Dr. S. is in favor of the Convention. His numbers of the Manual have been forwarded. We should be much pleased to have him become a regular contributor to our pages.

THE RIGHTS OF DR. SAMUEL THOMSON.—As the question is often asked, “Has not Dr. Thomson’s Patent run out?” &c., we state distinctly, for the information of all concerned, that his first patent, or rather the second, (for the first was declared deficient by Judge Story) did expire last January; but previous to the expiration of that patent, the Doctor obtained a new patent with new specifications, without any reference to his former patent. This he did, in preference to getting his former patent renewed, which might have been more difficult, and as all that was contained in the former patent which he cared much about is contained in his *New Guide to Health*, and of course is still secured to him in the Copy-right of that work. His new Patent he has not published yet, nor will he until the present Edition of his work is all sold, when the work will be revised for the last time and stereotyped.

The copy-right of the *New Guide*, &c. was secured March 7, 1835, as a new work, without any reference to former editions, though it contains all, and more too, which was contained in those editions. This right will stand under the new copy-right law 28 years, with the privilege of renewing once for 14 years longer, making in all 42 years, or till the year 1877. And before that time, the Author will probably be in his grave. This, we trust, will put the subject of the patent, and the copy-right of the Doctor’s book entirely at rest. And, as a proof of the correctness of this statement, we here publish the certificate of the Copy-right, and request all the Thomsonian papers to copy the above with the following certificate into their respective columns, for the information of the public.

ABNER KNEELAND, General Agent
for *Dr. Samuel Thomson*.

[Copy.]

DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS....TO WIT:
District Clerk’s Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the 7th day of March, Anno Domini, 1835, Samuel Thomson of the said District has deposited in this office the Title of a Book, the title of which is in the words following, to wit: *New Guide to Health; or, Botanic Family Physician. Containing a Complete System of Practice, on a Plan Entirely New: With a Description of the Vegetables Made Use of, and Directions for Preparing and Administering them, to Cure Disease. To which is Prefixed, A Narrative of the Life and Medical Discoveries of the Author.* By Samuel Thomson: the right whereof he claims as Author, in conformity with an act of Congress,

entitled “An Act to amend the several acts respecting Copy-rights.”

FRANCIS BASSETT, *Clerk of the District.*

[Copy.]

DISTRICT CLERK’S OFFICE, }
Boston, 25th May, 1835. }

A copy of work deposited in Office this day, the title of which is within described.

Attest, FRANCIS BASSETT, *Clerk,*
Per *P. Riley.*

AARON DOW.

Is it not strange—passing strange—that there is so little honor among mankind?

It is with extreme regret, that, in the faithful discharge of our duty, we are compelled to publish to the community at large, the mal-practice and knavery of the individual, whose name stands at the head of this article. Yes, *Aaron Dow*, who has received many favors from the hands of Dr. Thomson, has lately been detected in some of the most knavish attempts to defraud, not only Dr. Thomson, but several other individuals, out of their honest dues!

Several instances of his mal-practice, and the gross neglect of patients under his care, have also come to light, within a few weeks.

It will, perhaps, be proper to give a brief sketch of said Dow’s career, from the commencement of his obtaining a Thomsonian agency in 1835, down to the present time. This self-styled Dr. Dow, formerly kept a “General Intelligence Office,” at the corner of Milk and Federal-streets, in this city; and we have been lately informed, and we believe credibly, that he was in the habit of *sponging* young men out of a dollar, under pretence of getting them situations for business, or employment, and would send them to different places, both *in* and *out* of the city, where the persons to whom he sent them *did not*, and *had not* wanted help, as Dow had represented. But, not content with imposing upon young men, he even practised the same fraud upon females, who were in search of employment, and applied to him for situations. We believe, however, that the *fee* which he extorted from females, was only *fifty cents*, instead of one dollar. After applicants had posted about, according to his directions, until their patience became completely exhausted, and returned to him for their money, or a situation, he would frequently refuse—utterly refuse—to refund the money, or get them a place. And here we would ask Aaron Dow, if a certain

young man, whom he had sent to New York in search of a situation, did not receive from him fifty dollars to settle the said fraud privately?—and, also, if another young man did not seize a looking-glass, because he could not get his dollar refunded? O, Aaron, you need that glass to look into now!

So much for Aaron Dow, while he was a man of *general intelligence*; and his subsequent history will show that he is still *the same old sixpence*, (as the saying is,) with this addition, that he has carried on his knavery on a much larger scale, since he has been a Thomsonian agent, than he did, or could, in his petty “brokerage and intelligence office.”

Soon after, or about the time that he obtained a Thomsonian agency, he opened a house, No. 90, Federal-street, as an Infirmary; where he continued a few months, when he left and went to Newburyport—took a large house—issued puffing advertisements, and flaming hand-bills—got into a snarl with all the *regulars*, who would condescend to notice him—got severely rubbed in some of their retorts upon him—boasted so long and loud, that the people soon became sick of, and disgusted with him—he lost what little confidence, (*if any*,) the public had in him—his patrons and friends deserted him, and in December last, he returned to Boston. He took a large house in Brattle-street—issued another *braggadocia* hand-bill, and puffed *himself* up in the newspapers. Thus he went on, until the latter part of June; when, through the instrumentality of a friend of Dr. Thomson, his career of fraud became fully developed. Although he had signed a *bond* to Dr. Thomson, the same as do all of the doctor’s agents, for the faithful discharge of his duty as an agent—wherein he obligated himself to purchase *all* of his medicines of the doctor, or his legally authorised agents, yet, nevertheless, after he went to Newburyport, he entered *largely* into the trespass game; in which he continued up to the time above stated. Authentic accounts have lately reached our ears, that he has been in the habit of running his grocery, provision and milk bills to as large an amount as he could; and when called upon for payment, refuse to do anything for his creditors—pleading inability, when he has been known to have, at the time, much more than money enough in his pocket, to cancel the demand. His landlord’s bill, and some of his printers’ bills, have met with the

same fate, under precisely the same circumstances. But the tale is not yet all told. A girl, who was a domestic in his family—and, as far as we can learn, a faithful one, too, was obliged to *sue* him, for payment for her services, to the amount of ten dollars, which he refused to pay—pleading, in excuse, that he *suspected* that she had stolen from his house—but did not *know* as she had. His furniture he mortgaged, in order, as he acknowledged, to prevent his creditors from attaching the same, which virtually amounts to an intent, or design, to defraud his creditors out of their just demands.

In May last, he engaged S. F. Fowler, late of the firm of Sherburne & Fowler, as an assistant in his Infirmary. He told Mr. Fowler that he owed some money, and that it was his honest intention to pay all his debts, as fast as was in his power—but, for fear that any of his creditors might strike upon him, before he could pay them—and as he had a large lot of medicine on hand, which, if attached and sold at auction, would suffer a very great sacrifice, he wished Mr. Fowler to take a bill of sale of said medicine, to prevent a sacrifice, and give him a chance to turn it to advantage. Dow’s story appeared so very plausible, that Mr. Fowler consented to accommodate him, by taking a bill of his medicine, as Dow requested; and the writings were drawn and executed accordingly, a copy of which we here subjoin. They are as follows:

“Stephen F. Fowler,

Bought of Aaron Dow,
20 barrels of Botanic Medicine, at \$11, \$220
4 half barrels do. at 5, 20
6 firkins do. at 2, 12
11 gallons Rheumatic Drops, at 3, 33
A lot of Glass Jars and Bottles, 15

\$300

Received payment by note on demand,
(Signed) AARON DOW.
Boston, June 10, 1837.”

The following is a copy of the obligation, which Dow gave to Fowler:

“This may certify, that Stephen F. Fowler has this day given me a note, which reads thus:
“Boston, June 10, 1837.

“For value received, I promise to pay Aaron Dow, or order, Three Hundred Dollars, on demand, with interest.

\$300. (Signed) STEPHEN F. FOWLER.”

Appended to the above promissory note is the following:

“Now, I hereby certify, that said note is a

sham—it being given for my accommodation, for a lot of Botanic Medicine, which I have this day put into the hands of said Fowler, to prevent an attachment by my creditors; and I have given said Fowler a bill of the Medicine, which reads thus:" [Here follows the bill of sale, as above.]

"And I do hereby agree, *never* to call upon said Fowler, for the payment of said Note; otherwise, than that he shall deliver up to me, on demand, the aforesaid Botanic Medicine—upon delivery of which, I hereby promise to deliver up to him, (the said Fowler,) the aforesaid Note.

Witness my hand, this Tenth Day of June,
A. D., 1837.

(Signed) AARON DOW."

Soon after these writings were executed, Dow told Mr. Fowler that he owed Dr. Thomson sixty or seventy dollars—and wished that he owed him *five times as much*—for he did not intend ever to pay him; and, also, that he did not intend to pay any of his debts, which he could possibly get rid of.

In a few days after he had put the medicine into Mr. Fowler's hands, he had it transported to Lowell. When he returned to the city, he refused to give up Fowler's note; and it was not without considerable difficulty that Mr. F. obtained it, and not till after he had left Dow. At the time that he gave up the aforesaid note, he boasted to Mr. F. that he had got the medicine, and all his other property, secured; and that *old Sam.*, as he called Dr. Thomson, might *whistle* for his pay! But not quite so fast, Dr. Dow!—Dr. Thomson immediately sent to Lowell—found the medicine—and laid an attachment upon it!—and has since received information from his Attorney, that the money shall be forthcoming in thirty days from the date of the attorney's letter!!

On the 23d of June, Dow had his furniture sold at public auction; and has, undoubtedly, pocketed the money obtained from the sale, when he at the same time, owed several hundred dollars—(so he says)—and has left his creditors to *whistle for their pay*! But upon this branch of the subject, we have, for the present, said enough.


In relation to the mal-practice of Dow, we will at this time content ourself with stating, that complaints have reached us from different sources, implicating him in gross neglect—very deficient in giving medicine, and extorting extravagant bills. He has been known to give one, and only one, dose of *tincture* for an emetic,

and course of medicine; sometimes he would give *two* doses; and *sometimes* one or two doses of green emetic, but very seldom more; and, instead of giving *milk porridge* in or with a course of medicine, he would give *coarse Indian gruel*—saying, that milk porridge was too rich; and that he gave the coarse gruel to *scour out the stomach*! It is believed, that in one instance at least, he applied steam to a child in this city, so hot as to raise blisters on various parts of its body; the child died under his care. So much did his conduct and practice evince the most pompous arrogance, and consummate quackery, that the bare mention of the word Thomsonism to the family, excites feelings of the deepest horror and disgust; and we do not wonder that such is the fact. He has been known to state, that it was not a good plan to give thorough courses of medicine, lest the patient should get frightened, and be unwilling to take more courses; but, aside from this, he has stated, that if thorough courses were given, the patient would get well too quick; and other patients, who did not get along so fast, would be discouraged; and last, not least, and which caps the climax, *if he gave his patients thorough courses, he should not get so large a bill against them, as he would if he gave them light ones!*

Such has been the conduct of Aaron Dow. It is a matter for regret to all Thomsonians that he was ever an agent for Dr. Thomson, and we rejoice that he is no longer such—he having grossly violated all the conditions of his agency. But enough for one sitting. We may, perhaps, say more with respect to the obligations of the "bond" hereafter; for the present, further comment is unnecessary.

A SAD COMPLAINT!—Hosea Winchester complains most piteously because we place his name *first* on the list of "spurious"-Thomsonian-medicine venders! We are rather surprised that he should demur at this little courtesy of ours; but we are positively right in so doing, by all the rules of politeness—for he has been longest engaged in that business; by his own showing, not less than twenty years! Will thee not be satisfied with this, friend Hosea?

HALF-PRICE!—Mr. J. W. Chapman informs us that Hosea Winchester refuses to buy his own MEDICINES(?) at *half-price*! Really, Hosea thou knowest well the value of thine own commodities! *Whoever buys them even at half-price*

will be cheated—and this Winchester virtually admits!  Let it be remembered, that the articles which Mr. Chapman offers as Winchester's, were prepared by him (Winchester.)

DEATH OF CAPT. WISE.

There has been much excitement of late, in respect to the death of Capt. Wise, who died at the Infirmary of Dr. C. Gardner, in Newport, R. I., on the 7th of June last. The Rhode Island Republican has published several columns on the subject, pro and con, from which we make the following synopsis.

Capt. Wise arrived at Newport, in the ship *Pactolus*, from Mobile, on the 28th of May.—W. Turner, M.D. was called to attend him at a very early hour on Sunday morning, 4th June, at Townsend's Hotel. We give the following account of his case and treatment, which is from the pen of Dr. Turner. It will show the condition he was in when Dr. Gardner took charge of him, and coming from one who is bitterly opposed to the Botanic practice, will not be *particularly* favorable:

"I found him in bed, complaining of a very disordered feeling of his head, and sense of tenderness and oppression of his stomach and bowels; which, however, had but little appearance of swelling or distension,—he was considerably corpulent, his habit apparently quite plethoric, pulse full and active, skin hot,—his face red, with a red suffusion of his eyes, attended with a slight bilious tinge—all showing an undue determination of blood to the head; which supposition was farther confirmed by the circumstance, as I learned, of his having bled quite freely from the nose the early part of the preceding evening. He had been about attending to business until that evening, and free, as I understood, in his manner of living. He had taken, in the course of the night, a full dose of Castor oil, and, subsequently, an infusion of Senna, which had not then had any considerable effect. Under such circumstances, he was bled from the arm to a large pint, took 8 grains of Calomel two hours after, and in a few hours more, took a dose of Rochelle powders, and waited the due operation of his Cathartic Medicines, aided by suitable liquid nourishment, and drinks, until it might be thorough, which it was in the course of the afternoon and evening, when still having great restlessness, and nervous irritability, though complaining less of his head and bowels, he took 2 grains of Opium with 4 grains of Camphor, and repeated half the dose in two or three hours, after which he had some sleep. The next morning, *Monday*, he seemed decidedly better, but seemed to be a subject for moderately cordial and strengthening remedies; these were accordingly advised, in-

cluding light, nutritious diet, and cordial drinks, especially wine whey. In the evening, still suffering from great restlessness and nervous irritability, he took the nervine tranquilizing medicines of the night before, with a free use of Tincture and infusion of Valerian. Next morning, *Tuesday*, I had a hurried call to visit him again, which was immediately complied with. I found that his sleep had been little and unrefreshing,—directed a continuance of the nervine medicines, same diet, and free ventilation of his room, and as much quiet as possible. Mrs. Wise being with him, these directions were as carefully attended to as in her power. At 10 o'clock, forenoon, called again, feeling anxious about the evident disposition of his system to collapse, and as I apprehended low delirium. He was upon his feet—more tranquil—in full dress, and prepared, as he said, to try more air, and a little exercise, which was approved of, limiting his walk to the long entry adjoining, in the third story—advised a continuance of the cordial nourishment, and light Tonic and nervine medicines. In a few minutes after, from a house opposite, saw him at the front door of the hotel below,—and fifteen minutes after, on riding homeward, overtook him walking alone in the main street, about a quarter of a mile from his lodging. My apprehensions were much excited, as I told him, from such an undue exertion, which, I afterwards learned, was extended to a walk of a full mile from his lodgings, and back again about noon. Soon after his return, was sent for by Mrs. Wise, to visit him—found he had experienced all the expected inconvenience from his improper exertions—advised perfect rest for the remainder of the day—a free use of wine whey and cordial nourishment—and the bowels, which were somewhat confined, to be moved by *gentle means*. He submitted with evident reluctance to my advice, and said that the next morning would be soon enough for me to see him again; but upon his wife and son expressing a great desire that I should see him again in the evening, I did so, and thought, and said, that the principal difficulty in his case would arise from his extraordinary impatience of lingering complaint, and unwillingness to submit to the various restraints necessary to promote his convalescence. I spoke to him on the subject as *impressively* as I was capable of, in the presence of Mrs. Wise and his son, as they, I think, will always remember.

Next morning, *Wednesday*, the day of his death, called again, and found him in what is called the reading room, sitting at a table with papers upon it, writing,—surrounded by several sailors, with whom he appeared to be settling accounts. Expressed my surprise, and apprehension of the consequence of so great an effort. His hurried answer was, that he should go on board his vessel that morning, and to sea the next day, taking Mrs. Wise and his son with him. I proposed to supply him with a little medicine and some directions, which he quickly answered were, in his opinion, unnecessary. I, however,

spoke with Mrs. Wise on the subject, and supplied what I thought absolutely necessary. At about 11 o'clock, forenoon, he took his boat at Bannister's wharf, and was rowed to his ship in the offing, more than a mile; climbed her sides, 15 or 20 feet high, as I understood—staid on board an hour, or more, and returned in the boat again to the wharf. At a little after 1 o'clock, P.M., Mrs. Wise sent a request by my son, that I would again visit him with my partner, Dr. James V. Turner, as she thought him much worse for his exertions, and she thought he did not feel satisfied with my advice—alluding, as I supposed, to the restraints it imposed upon him. Neither of us were immediately found, but my partner as soon as in his power, between 3 and 4 o'clock, went to his lodging, and there learned that he had gone to the *Steam Doctors* to be cured."

Here we have a detailed account of Capt. Wise's case, and the treatment he received, whilst under Dr. Turner's care, in the doctor's own words. Thus far, it seems fair and candid, and contains all that has a direct bearing upon the case. Toward the close of his statement, however, in speaking of Capt. Wise's treatment after he was under the care of Dr. Gardner, he very insidiously tries to cast a stigma upon Dr. Gardner and his practice for using lobelia, and endeavors to give the impression that lobelia caused his death. Dr. T., in the same paragraph in which he speaks of lobelia as being "a deadly narcotic poison," also states that the *propriety of an inquest was suggested, on account of a suspicion of the son of Capt. Wise, that poison had been given him by the ship's Steward!!* Be careful, doctor; this looks much like contradiction!

We think it evident enough from the foregoing statement of Dr. Turner, that no blame can possibly attach to Dr. Gardner, or his practice, from the death of Capt. Wise. The Coroner's Jury, also, in their verdict, say, "that the said Daniel Wise did die by the *Visitation of God*, in a natural way, and not otherwise."

We subjoin the following extracts from Dr. Gardner's statement:

"On Wednesday last, [June 7th,] I was called to see him, between the hours of 1 and 2 P.M.—but not assuring him of a speedy recovery, he concluded to dispense with my services. I returned home, but in a few minutes he sent a message, requesting to be taken forthwith to my house. I went immediately with my chaise to his lodging, and took him thence to the Infirmary. After he got into the chaise, at the moment of leaving the Hotel, he observed to Mr. Townsend, "I am so much swollen that I cannot button my vest by three inches."

After reaching the Infirmary and undressing himself, I perceived livid spots on his legs and thighs, and that they were in a cold state. An injection was immediately given, but with very little effect, though he said it gave him relief. After the action of the enema, he entered the vapor bath, and staid from 12 to 15 minutes. This he also said gave him relief. He was then put immediately to bed. His wife, at this time, entering the room, he observed to her, "I am all black and blue." The usual emetic, and another injection were given, but so rapid was the progress of mortification, that the medicine was altogether powerless. Two more injections were administered, but produced no action, and about two hours after he reached the Infirmary he was dead. Doct. Enoch Hazard was present during the last hour preceding the dissolution."

Dr. Gardner adduces the certificates of C. B. Peckham, Chas. H. Mumford, Susan J. Gelston, Thomas Townsend, Isaac Burdick, Thomas Spooner and John Mowatt, which corroborate his statements in every particular.

We have thus given a full and correct account of this case, allowing each party to tell their own story. That no blame can attach to Thomsonism, is as obvious as the sun at noon-day; and it is not a little astonishing that such a hue and cry should have been raised on the subject. We are glad of it, however, as it will wake up the public mind to the subject. The superiority of Thomsonism is at once acknowledged by the fact, that no one is permitted to die under that mode of treatment, whilst the regulars can lose half of their patients, and nothing is said about it. Read, in proof of this, the following statement of Dr. Gardner:

"My Infirmary has been in operation for fifteen months. My practice at the Infirmary and in families has been rapidly increasing, and the last three months I have averaged thirty-five courses per month at the Infirmary, and have prescribed for rising one hundred persons in different families—or, in other words, I have had two hundred patients since the first of March last, and yet, up to this time, Capt. Wise is the first person who has died under my treatment."

Thomsonism *will cure* in all curable cases, where it can have a fair trial; but when a man is so far gone, that the medicine will not operate, there is no chance for him. And such, we believe, was the situation of Capt. Wise, when the medicine was administered to him. We have no doubt, however, but he would have been speedily cured, had he placed himself under Dr. Gardner's care in the first instance. With respect to Dr. Turner's treatment, our

readers have his own account of it, and can draw such inferences as they please. We have nothing to say on the subject, further than that we would neither submit to, nor prescribe it.

PHYSIC.—The “Botanic Sentinel” is deserving of the highest praise and admiration of all radical Thomsonians, for its noble stand against the use of *physic*. It has already completely routed one opponent,—the “R. I. Botanic Advertiser,”—and is now ably sustaining itself against a more powerful antagonist, who writes for the Sentinel, under the signature of “Amicus.” The Sentinel is in the right.

P. S. In reply to the “Sentinel’s” inquiry, “Would it not be well for Thomsonians to dispense entirely with the butter-nut and bitter-root in their practice?” we say, such is our opinion; and such is the opinion of Dr. Thomson, who has of late *entirely discarded them from his compounds*, and wishes them to be *entirely dispensed with*. If those who advocate the use of cathartic medicine, are determined to use *something*, these two articles have decidedly the preference over all others. On this subject, we shall speak more at large hereafter; for the present, we trust this will suffice.

PROPOSED CONVENTION.—We invite attention to the following excellent communication, which was elicited by our address, in the last Manual. The candid and friendly spirit manifested in the remarks, and the writer’s promptness in responding to our call, are worthy of the highest commendation, and encourage us to feel very sanguine in regard to the success of our proposition. Every person with whom we have conversed, and all who have expressed to others their sentiments on the subject, have, so far as we have heard, fully accorded with us.

To the Editor of the Manual:

Hartford, July 15, 1837.

MR. CHAPMAN,—Dear Sir: I received the July number of the Thomsonian Manual yesterday, and promptly respond to the call for a Convention to adjust the difficulties, or rather differences of opinion, existing between Dr. Thomson, and his agents and practitioners generally. I have long regretted the existing unpleasant state of things, and have considered it the greatest hindrance to the spread of true medical science in our country. Our opponents may rave—and through their influence laws may be enacted to hinder the good cause; still it will triumph—it can only be wounded in the house of its friends. Being, as I know you

must be, in the confidence of Dr. Thomson, I cannot but hail this event as the harbinger of good—as the precursor of victory. It has come from the right source.—Ever the benefactor of mankind, and in many instances despised and injured—yea, basely injured; by those, too, who owed to him every thing, yea, life itself—he has now come forward, and extended the hand of forgiveness, amity and friendship. Injured as he has been by those who had every motive to be his sincere friends, no wonder that he should be distrustful of mankind, and jealous of his rights, and that he should err in some respects. But now he has offered to have all adjusted; and he that will not accept; nay, he that is not anxious for such a consummation, seeks not the interest of his fellow men, in the extension of the Thomsonian system, but his own, and is unjust to its founder. I am confident that it will meet the views of the practitioners in this section, and hope the proposed Convention will take place soon, and it would be my mind if it was designed only for N. England at Worcester, if for the U. S. at N. York.

Yours,

ISAAC J. SPERRY.

[Original.]

To the Editor of the Thomsonian Manual:

MR. CHAPMAN,—Sir: Please insert the following certificate in your next number, and oblige yours, respectfully,

WM. CLARK, 23, Harvard-street.

CERTIFICATE.

This may certify, that one year since, I went to Dr. Wm. Clark’s Infirmary, in Harvard-street, Boston, to be doctored for sores on my legs, with which I had been afflicted for four years. The sores were denominated by the regulars fever sores; but I believe them to have been mercury sores, and such Dr. Clark considered them. Suffice it to say, my legs were completely ulcerated from my knees to my ancles—my general health, also, was very much reduced; and when I went to Dr. Clark I had no hope of ever being cured. Neither did Dr. C. give me much encouragement, as my case was so bad that there did not seem to be the least prospect of a cure. When my case was undertaken by Dr. C. my ancles were swelled up as big as the calf of my leg. I had been attended during the space of four years by several of the physicians of Boston, from whom I received no benefit. So putrid was my case, that it was necessary to keep me in a room separated from the rest of the patients; and it was very offensive and disagreeable to attend upon me. I am now perfectly cured. It is one year since I was at the Infirmary, and my legs are and have been perfectly sound, and my general health good. Whoever may doubt these facts, can receive full confirmation of me personally, if they are disposed to call upon me.

EDWARD QUINN.

North Bridgewater, Ms. July, 1837.

"MEDICAL LAWS IN CONNECTICUT."—The *regulars* of Connecticut, by untiring exertions, have succeeded in defeating the bill for the repeal of the odious medical laws of that state. Dr. B. W. Sperry, (in a communication published in the "Botanic Sentinel") says, that "forty-four thousand votes were polled at the last election, *eighteen thousand* of which petitioned for a repeal of the 8th section of the Medical Laws." And yet the voice of 18,000 is disregarded!—nor that only, but also treated with contempt! But it will have a good effect. It will, as one of the members of the legislature remarked to Dr. Sperry, "excite the minds of the people—stimulate them to renewed exertions—and favor the spread of Thomsonism."

☞ We shall publish in our next a high and well-deserved compliment to Dr. J. R. Patten, which appeared in a recent number of the *Lynn Record*—we have not room now.

CAUTION.—A number of deaths have been recorded in Portland, Me., caused by eating pickles which had been prepared in copper kettles.

DEATH FROM POISONED PICKLES.—Chester Nins, aged 26, and Laura his wife, aged 19, residing in Palmyra, Lenawee county, Michigan, died within a few days of each other, by eating pickles which had been prepared in a copper kettle. Let this be a solemn warning!

A horse-doctor is on trial for quackery, in New-York, charged with having killed a horse by unskilful treatment! ☞ Wonder if he had a diploma!!

MAL-PRACTICE BY A QUACK.—The *Newport Argus* states that Milton Parker, *M. D.!* of Acworth, N.H., has been fined \$167 for mal-practice as a surgeon. He was called to set a broken limb, which he did in a manner so unskilful as to cause entirely the loss of its use. A suit was commenced for damages, and resulted as above. So, it seems, a "diploma" no longer affords infallible protection! A little longer, and it will be entirely useless—or we are no prophet!

A GOOD JOKE.—A physician of this city recently gave one of his patients a piece of brown paper, and threw the medicine into the fire. He did not discover his mistake until the sick man began to recover from his illness.

☞ We deem it necessary to state, that Dr. Draper has not been editor of the *Botanic Sentinel* for the three last months. [*Bot. Sentinel.*]

We presumed as much; but never have seen any announcement of the fact before. We also presume that Dr. Mattson now has the editorial management—Are we right?

OBITUARY.

DIED, at Walpole, on Sunday, the 25th of June, Mr. GEORGE P. ELLIS, aged 43.

We record the death of this individual in the *Manual*, for the double purpose of paying a tribute of respect to his memory, and of illustrating the truth of the theory we recently laid down, in respect to *Consumption*. Mr. Ellis had been declining in health for years, though most of the time he was able to superintend his business. He had, at times, bled severely at the lungs; but being much in favor of the Thomsonian practice of medicine, which he occasionally administered to others as well as himself, he was in all probability preserved several years longer than he would have been under the *regular* mode of treatment. We were at his house two or three times the past winter and spring, in company with Dr. Thomson, who did not think it possible that he could long survive; and frequently remarked that it was most probable he would expire on the first very warm day. It will be observed, as a forcible illustration of the truth of this remark, that the 25th of June was a very warm and sultry day,—particularly the early part of it.

Mr. Ellis died as he had lived, a firm Thomsonian; and has left an aged mother, a kind and affectionate sister, and an amiable young lady who was an adopted daughter of Mrs. Ellis—besides a large circle of warm and grateful friends—to mourn his loss. He was a kind-hearted, upright and benevolent man; active in business; and possessing those peculiar virtues which are ennobling to the mind and heart, and which promote happiness and comfort wherever their influence may be felt. Indeed, we can truly say, we were never in a family where more universal harmony and content prevailed than in that of Mr. Ellis.

But, as is always the case with those who possess pre-eminent virtues,—and as if no human happiness should be unalloyed,—Mr. Ellis had *some* most bitter and vindictive enemies. Yes, he who was a worthy pattern for even good men, had his last moments embittered, if not his days shortened, by the malicious conduct of those—whose heaviest charge against him was nothing more, perhaps, than a difference of opinion in regard to medical doctrines. Some of these persons, whenever they heard that Mr. Ellis was worse than he had been, would call upon him, and glut their savage and demonic hearts, by endeavoring to harrow up his feelings, and excite within his bosom resentments, which at such a time, above all others, should have been avoided. So *often* was this done, that the *intention* could not be mistaken; and those persons, now, perhaps—if their hearts are not too much calloused—experience those feelings of remorse, which such conduct must necessarily engender.

Mr. Ellis's surviving relatives can look back upon his character, without perceiving any just cause for reproach; and although this cannot make up to them the heavy loss they have sustained, yet it will serve to soothe them in their deep and lamentable affliction.—[EDITOR MANUAL.]

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 11.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*,
By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston.

[Original.]

New Haven, July 18th, 1837.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir: Enclosed is two dollars, for which please send the "Thomsonian Manual" as far back on the second volume [*] as possible, and continue as far as the money will apply.

The Thomsonian system has made powerful advances in this city within the last two years. Among its friends, we have many of the first respectability, influence and wealth.

Our Co. Bot. Society enumerates about sixty members, the greater portion of whom are warmly engaged in the promotion of the immutable principles of our Venerable Head, Dr. S. THOMSON. Long may he live, to enjoy the rich reward he so justly merits. Although he may not receive the plaudits of the literati in his advanced years, yet when his enemies shall lie forgotten, Justice shall gather her wreaths of immortal fame around his memory!

I have been in the Thomsonian field as a practitioner, more than seven years, five of which were spent in the State of New-York; and in November, 1835, I returned to this my native county, to endeavor to elevate the Thomsonian standard, and aid in its more general diffusion. My fondest hopes have been more than realised.

From May 1st, to November 1st, 1836, I gave in my Infirmary between 800 and 900 full courses of medicine—and have lost none in my Infirmary for two years.

Opposition to this simple, efficient and glo-

* As the Index and Title-page which will accompany the last number of the present volume, will be arranged with reference to having the first and second volumes bound together, we presumed it would meet Dr. Sperry's wishes to receive the first volume complete, as well as the back numbers of the second—and we have sent them accordingly.
[ED. MANUAL.]

rious system, is fast receding before the light of truth. Yea, *Truth*, based upon reason, common sense and philosophy, will in due time roll back the powers of darkness, error, ignorance and superstition; and I believe the time is not far distant, when the metals now converted into Lancets, Forceps and Blunthooks, *shall* be beaten into "ploughshares and pruning hooks," and the people learn the poisonous system no more.

To aid in the accomplishment of so desirable an object, I have spent many sleepless nights and days of fatigue, for the seven years last past, in the exhibition of lobelia, capsicum, steam and No. 6; and whatever of life and health remain, is at the service of Thomsonism in all its purity and grandeur.

I perceive a call for a Convention of the Thomsonian practitioners; and as a point for its meeting, I would suggest New-York, as the means of collecting a greater concentration of strength. I would not wish to dictate, but would strongly urge that city as the best and most convenient place for its sitting.

Yours, respectfully, in haste,
BENNETT W. SPERRY.

☞ We insert the following reply to Dr. Sperry's private note, for the purpose of giving the information therein solicited to others, as well as to Dr. S. This will save much trouble to Dr. Thomson's General Agent in answering letters, which have of late become quite numerous, and also save the expense of writing, to those who wish for the information.—ED. MAN.

N. B. Agencies are obtained at present on the same terms as they have been for some time back; nor will there be any alteration for some considerable time yet to come. Those who purchase Rights, or Medicine, or both, to sell again, will find no difficulty (provided they come well recommended) in obtaining an Agency to sell them. But those who prepare their own medicine, can sell their own preparations, if any one will buy them, without any agency from Dr. Thomson. All is, they should not call it *Thomsonian* medicine; as Dr. Thomson, in that case, cannot be responsible for its goodness. If Dr. Thomson gives an Agency, it should be an Agency for *him*; that is, to sell *his* books, and *his* medicine; and the public should know, and persons should always be informed, when

they are buying medicine, whether it be medicine of Dr. Thomson's preparing; or whether it is only medicine prepared in his name, but not by him, nor by his authority.

ABNER KNEELAND, *General Agent*
for Dr. Samuel Thomson.

[Original.]

A FEW FACTS OF SOME INTEREST.

MR. EDITOR,—In the course of my reading, I recently met with the following interrogations, made by the celebrated Locke: "Would it not be an insufferable thing for a learned professor, and that which his scarlet would blush at, to have his authority of forty years standing, wrought out of hard rock, Greek and Latin, with no small expense of time and candle, and confirmed by general tradition and a reverend beard, in an instant overturned by an upstart novelist? Can any one expect that he should be made to confess, that what he taught his scholars *thirty* years ago, was all error and mistake, and that he sold them hard words at a very dear rate?"

Sentiments like these, find a lodgment in multitudes of hearts; but it is very seldom that they are clothed with language, and spread out before the world. Mr. Locke appears to have asked these questions *humorously*; yet, in regard to many, they are full of sober truth; and, in reading them, I was forcibly struck with their peculiar applicability to many of the regulars in relation to Thomsonism. Facts abundantly prove that "general tradition" and the deep-rooted prejudices of education are among the most potent obstacles to the spread of truth. And it very unfortunately happens, in this case, that those individuals, who, from their situation, are morally bound to examine the botanic system, are the very persons, to whom its triumph would prove most *mortifyingly humiliating*. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" asks the regular. Shall ignorance be enthroned upon the foundations of science? And shall the "system of ages" be overturned by that of a day? Shall the hoary-headed scientific ask wisdom of an illiterate quack? Human nature is stubborn. It is hard for old veteran calomel distributors, who have emptied one or two generations into the grave, to confess that their whole practice has been most egregiously wrong; and even when convinced of the fact, but few will acknowledge it.

Now, I have in my mind's eye, a certain regular, who had a patient sick of a fever, taken from his care, and placed under that of a Thomsonian; and whom he warned of a speedy and certain death, if treated on the botanic system. The patient was out in three days, and entirely free from disease. This rapid recovery carried conviction to the mind of the regular, and, Nicodemus-like, he went to the Thomsonian by night, and enjoined him to keep it a secret from the faculty:—confessed his inability thus to ar-

rest the progress of a fever, and purchased a "Family-right." Here was a virtual acknowledgment of the superiority of Thomsonism, but a *secret* one, for fear of being put out of the synagogue of the regulars, and of being subjected to the mortification of adopting the views of an "upstart novelist." But still, it was a delightful spectacle, to witness an M.D., laden with the boasted wisdom of ages, prostrate at the feet of Thomsonism, doing it homage, and like a little child, taking his first lessons in medical science, from a "poor, illiterate quack," a humble follower of the "*QUACK of quacks*." Thus, new laurels are every day encircling the brow of the immortal Founder of a system, which is continually making converts from the circles of fashion and the ranks of the learned, and which is advancing rapidly to the conquest of the earth. But there will yet be many *hard struggles*. The dying strife of the old system will be tremendous, but it *must come*. This generation, in many places, will witness it. There are wise heads among the regulars, that will yet confess, that what they taught and practised for ten, twenty or thirty years, was all wrong; and that they sold their patients *hard words*, and doses of Greek and Latin, at a very dear rate. Concessions are frequently made, to the superiority of the botanic system, by the faculty, in their confidential intercourse with each other. Mr. Editor, "*I speak that which I do know*."

A medical gentleman of New-England, of high standing, tarried to witness the effect of the Thomsonian medicine on a patient upon whom he and a jury of his brethren had exhausted their skill in vain. "Come," said he to the Thomsonian, "*Perform*." This "*upstart novelist*" performed, while he and the regulars looked on; and, to their great mortification and astonishment, after a short interval, the patient was relieved; a free and natural breathing succeeded his laborious and painful respiration; reason resumed her throne; and the piercing and heart-rending groans of the sufferer were exchanged for the *most hearty thanks* to the physician who, by the superiority of his remedies, relieved him. After witnessing this signal triumph of the *new system*, over the *old*, this redoubtable M. D. was overheard remarking, *in an under tone of voice!* "THESE THOMSONIANS, RIGHT FROM THE PLOUGH, CAN, SOMEHOW OR OTHER, PERFORM CURES WHICH COMPLETELY BAFLE OUR SKILL, AND WE CANNOT DENY IT." Well, now for the result. Why, the whole band of regulars, one would suppose, became Thomsonians at once! Not so. With this, and ten thousand such facts staring them in the face, they still continue to persecute and malign these "upstart novelists" without mercy.

Let us now single out from this jury of M.D.'s some one, whose organ of conscientiousness is somewhat prominently developed, (if such an one we can find,) and follow him from this sick chamber to his office; and let us endeavor to form some conjecture upon what would, probably, be his reflections. He arrives, and seats

himself in a chair, dissatisfied with himself and his system. He recollects that the family of his patient has witnessed a complete failure of the *old practice*, and as complete a triumph of the *Thomsonian*. It cannot be denied, for the relief was afforded, not only in the presence of the family circle, but also in that of a number of the faculty, and a crowd of anxious neighbors; and now, what shall I do? It is in vain to pretend that the relief might be attributed to mere chance, for he has been too successful in several other instances. He thinks of the pleasurable sensations that are produced, when true magnanimity prompts its possessor to divest himself of all envious feelings, and contracted views, and to bestow merited praise upon those to whom it is due. He immediately resolves to discard the *old system*, and to adopt the *new*.

A thrill of joy pervades his heart, to think that he has thrown off the shackles of the "guessing system," in which, for a long time, he has had no confidence, and that he has embraced another as indestructible as truth itself. As he reflects upon the manner in which he treated his patients, formerly, how one, and another, and another, fell victims to death, who, but for his unskilful management, would still have been in the ranks of the living, an awful sadness comes over him. If, says he, the Thomsonian system be true, as I most heartily believe, Mr. A., whom I so frequently and copiously bled, was hurried into eternity by my own hands. Should I ever again practise in the family of Mr. B., whose daughter died of a fever which I treated as an enemy, the old gentleman's good sense will lead him, at once, to view me as her murderer. It will, also, be obvious to the whole community, that blistering, bleeding, mercury and morphine, caused the death of C, D, E, F, and many others. That this is the fact, an examination of the botanic system places beyond a reasonable doubt, and my heart bleeds while I think of it; and now, by becoming a Thomsonian, I am about to publicly confess, that for *twenty years*, I have been practising upon a theory that has dug the grave of millions. These Thomsonians, upon whom I have looked down with such utter contempt are the benefactors of their race. I have frequently been struck with astonishment at the sudden restoration of one and another of my own patients, by their system, whose cases I had given up as desperate. I know their system is true; reason, common sense, truth, justice and humanity, all urge me to adopt it. Again, I ask, what shall I do? To confess that for so many years I have been practising upon a false and destructive theory, will cause me to inherit the everlasting displeasure of the better part of the community. I regard, highly, the good opinion of my fellow men. It is not yet forfeited, and I need not forfeit it. The *old system* stands here still, a most magnificent structure, ornamented with the wisdom, skill and science of the great, and learned, and wise, for more than 2,000 years. In consequence of our misrepresenta-

tions of Thomsonism, the people are still *wedded* to it, and shall I give it up, and with it, a *fat living*, for a system of a day, sought out by an ignorant "*upstart novelist*"? Shall I stoop from the sublime heights of science, and rank myself with a set of *poor, illiterate, despised quacks*? No! the dignity of human nature, and a decent self-respect, forbid it! "*Live or die, sink or swim*," I go for the *old system*. These Thomsonians, after all, are a pack of ignorant pretenders, who are hurrying the whole community, on the rail-road of Cayenne, Lobelia, and steam, to one common grave. *Down with them*; by *fair means*, if you can; if not, by *any means*. A gibbet is too good for them. And immediately he goes extensively into the manufacture of gross and palpable fabrications; and soon a report is in circulation, that one individual, literally filled with cayenne, has been consumed by spontaneous combustion. Another, under the influence of lobelia, has vomited up his *abdominal viscera*; and some half a dozen more have been converted into the consistence of a French soup, in a steam-box.

This, Mr. Editor, is the medical experience of many of the faculty; and thus, in thousands of instances, an M.D.'s *carnal obstinacy* lords it over reason, common sense, truth, justice, and bleeding humanity. To the truth of the preceding remarks, the heart of many an honest M.D. responds, *Amen*. The systems of Harvey, Newton and Galileo, though strenuously opposed at first, triumphed over prejudice, ignorance, and error, as will, eventually, that of the immortal THOMSON. The faculty may ridicule, despise and oppose it, but all their malice and rage will only impart to it an increased *momentum*, in its triumphant march through the length and breadth of the earth. And those individuals engaged in opposing its progress, appear as ridiculous to enlightened Thomsonians, as would the poor maniac in chains, who, fancying himself possessed of all the military power in the universe, should attempt to demolish the impregnable fortress of Gibraltar with a pop-gun!

CONSISTENCY.

Nashua, N.H., July 1, 1837.

[Original.]

To the Editor of the Thomsonian Manual:

MR. CHAPMAN,—Dear Sir: I have long thought of giving you a statement of some cases I have attended. I would just premise, however, that I have lost but one patient during my practice, where I was the only attending physician; and will give one hundred dollars to any one who will prove the contrary. But to the case.

Early last spring, I was called to visit a child of a Mr. Spicer, in Norwich, Ct. I was at the time from home, a distance of six miles, and consequently the patient was very low when I arrived. On entering the house, I found the child laboring under a severe attack of croup, and apparently in the agonies of death. I com-

menced giving it warm medicine and tincture—ordered a poultice of onions to the throat and feet. It drank with *horrid* eagerness every thing put within its reach, seizing its throat with its hands, &c. The tincture, although given without weight or measure, produced no more effect than water. I then changed the onions, and substituted cloths wet with hot water, prepared an injection of one ounce of third preparation, and nerve powder, and administered it. It immediately operated upon the system—the child appeared to breathe easier, but the distress increased. For two hours, the family were in expectation of a fatal termination of the little sufferer's agonies; but, at the end of this time, the system relaxed—a calm and natural sleep followed, and the child awoke after the lapse of four hours, comfortable. It had never been healthy before; but has since been well. The cloths were changed as fast as they cooled—they appeared to ease the patient, and render the respiration free. The family as well as myself were astonished at the powerful effects of the medicine, for to human appearance, it could not survive fifteen minutes, when I first saw it.

Yours, ISAAC J. SPERRY.
Hartford, Ct., July 15, 1837.

[Original.]

N. S. MAGOON, OF THE "GULL-TRAP."

Dr. S. THOMSON,—Dear Sir:

I perceive that the "Gull-Trap" sign, at No. 554, Washington-street, is still kept up; and that the public are still daily liable to be *gulled* by that consummate old impostor and quack, whose name stands at the head of this communication. Having once been most egregiously imposed upon, by said Magoon, in a business transaction, and having, likewise, seen some of his treatment of patients, and conduct toward others, while I was in his house, (gull-trap) in the month of April last, besides collecting considerable information from several inmates of his house, (gull-trap), in relation to the same subject, all of which perfectly corresponds with what I saw and heard *of* and *from* him, I deem it a duty which I owe to the public generally, to you, as the venerable father and founder of the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice, and to the cause of suffering humanity, to disabuse, so far as I am able, both yourself and the public, by exposing his knavery and mal-practice, to the extent of my ability. I shall state nothing but plain, simple truth; and, in fact, there is no need of exaggerating, or dressing up a story about him; for the truth, and that alone, if it be all told, will place him in no very enviable situation.

Some time in the month of March last, Magoon came to the Infirmary in which I resided, and stated to me that he intended to give up practice himself, and go into other business; and wanted to let out, that is, get some one to do the business of his Infirmary, and return to

him a certain portion of the proceeds; and invited me to call upon him, to view the premises, and hear and consider a proposition which he would make. I made an appointment, and called upon him accordingly. He made a proposition to me, and allowed me one week, in which to make up mind, and return him an answer. In the course of the week, I concluded to comply *with*, and accept *of*, his proposition—reduced the same to writing, which I presented to him; to which he gave his assent, and acknowledged that it was right, with the exception of one minor particular, which he mentioned, and which I had forgotten; but which, I told him, we could easily have inserted. This was on Friday, the last day of March; and I was to move in on Saturday, the first day of April. Well, he took the writing which I had drawn up and presented to him, and said that as we should each of us want a copy, he would take a copy from it, and would sign the writings the next day; but, in the mean time, he wished me to move in. I accordingly moved in on Saturday, April 1st; and as he pretended being engaged, the writings were not signed that day, and the next day being Sunday, the business was deferred till Monday. Monday, he pretended press of business, and Tuesday the same; and, on Wednesday, he utterly refused to do any thing about it; but would make a new contract with me, if I would accede to his terms; which were as different from the contract which he had before agreed to, as light is from darkness; and with which I indignantly refused to comply.

The substance of his first proposition, to which we had both agreed, and which I had reduced to writing, was substantially as follows:

He (Magoon) was to keep the house—board myself and wife—board the patients—pay one *half* of the expenses of medicine, fuel and lights—and furnish all the beds, furniture and apparatus *of* and *for* the Infirmary: And I was to pay him a certain price for the board of myself and wife—pay one half of the expense of the medicine, fuel and lights, *of* and *for* the medical department—do all the work *of* and *for* the same, and return to him one half of the proceeds, the expenses being first deducted. I was to have the sole management of the medical department, and obtain the medicines which I might use and sell, *when* and *where* I pleased; and he agreed *not* to offer for sale, or keep for sale, any medicine in the house, after two weeks from the first of April. The *board* of patients, was of course to go exclusively to him (Magoon).

The *new* proposition which he wanted to force upon me, (after he had grossly violated one contract, honorably and fairly made,) was, in substance, this:

That I should pay a certain price, (more than double that agreed upon), for board for myself and wife—do all the business and drudgery in the Infirmary, and let him prepare and furnish the medicine, (his rotten and deleterious drugs), and he would give me, or allow me, seventy-

five cents for each course of medicine, as my share. While I practised in his house, (which was but three or four days,) I did business to the amount of about eighteen dollars; and he, (Magoon,) voluntarily took it upon himself to collect the bills; and paid to me five dollars, and five only. After he had disappointed me in violating his contract, he told me that I should be welcome to stay and board with him awhile, until I could obtain a situation, and I did stay until the 17th of April. When I was about leaving him, he *dunned* me for his board-bill against me; but I refused to pay him anything more than what he had already in his hands; that is, four dollars, which was due to me for business I had done, and I did not pay him.

In justice to Mrs. Magoon, I would here remark, that to the best of my knowledge and belief, she is an excellent woman—every way entitled to the appellation of a lady; and is deserving of a much better husband; for from her husband she receives almost continual abuse and austerity. The children, likewise, partake much more of their mother's than of their father's disposition; and, like their mother, receive the almost unceasing crossness and austerity of old Nathaniel.

Some time last Autumn, Magoon took in a partner, by the name of Ward; who paid in four hundred dollars to Magoon, and took one half of the medicines, which Magoon then had on hand; went in to tend the shop, and was to receive one half of the profits accruing from the sale of medicines; with the promise from Magoon, that by his (Ward) giving him two months' notice of his wish to leave the concern, that he (Magoon) would refund to him (Ward) his money, and let him go; but Magoon utterly refused to fulfil his contract; and it was not until about six months after Ward gave him notice of his wish to close the concern, that he could obtain his money; and even then, (as I am informed,) he obtained it, only by retaining money which he received for the sale of medicines, and which Magoon in vain attempted to extort or draw from him.

In relation to the practice of Magoon as a physician, as far as I can learn, he has had ill success—and well he might; for he could not be expected to have good success, when the fact is known that he uses electricity and physic in abundance. His medicines are, many of them, of a very inferior quality. He had some *stuff*, which he called *myrrh*, that he sold at fifty cents per pound, and of which he made drops, which smelled nearly as bad as *assafetida*, and was nearly as black as *charcoal*, which he told me, about the time I went there, that he bought of Henshaw & Co.; but before I left him, he denied, in round terms, having ever purchased any *myrrh* of Henshaw & Co. He told me that Henshaw & Co. once shaved him in an article which he purchased of them; but did not name the article. I presume, however, that owing to Magoon's ignorance, they sold him something for *myrrh*, which was not *myrrh*.

But enough! my heart already sickens at the recital of his continued tricks of knavery—his mal-practice, and his ignorant blunders.

In conclusion, I would ask, is such a man?—*man*, did I say?—pardon the mistake!—Is such a *being* fit to be entrusted with the charge of the sick? As well might those laboring under the burden of disease, die by the lancet, opium and mercury of the regular diplomatzed quack, as by the fraud, impositions, electricity, physic and other nostrums of that consummate old quack, who keeps the "Gull-Trap."

Respectfully, yours,

STEPHEN F. FOWLER.

Boston, July 10, 1837.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—Milton.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 15, 1837.

THOMSONIAN CONVENTION.

The friends of THOMSONISM are hereby notified, that a Convention will be holden at Providence, R. I., on the second Monday in November, to take into consideration such measures as may be proposed for the advancement of the cause; and, also, as a primary object, to consider and act upon the propositions contained in the Address of the Editor of the "Thomsonian Manual," published in the July number of that journal; and such other matters as may come before them.

Agents, and others interested, (particularly those in the N. E. States,) are requested to attend.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, July 20, 1837.

AN "Address in Refutation of the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice," is the title of a pamphlet which has been handed to us, and which we briefly noticed in our last—promising, at the same time, to give it some further attention when leisure should permit. Had we not made that promise—or, had we examined the Address before saying anything about it,—we should never mention that such a *thing* had ever existed. But, having spoken of it, we think proper to "show it up" to our readers, in a manner as brief as possible, and yet so fully, that its merits, both on the score of *candor* and *ability*, may be made manifest. At the same

time, our friends will perceive how *powerful* are the arguments, and how *cogent* the reasoning, of the opposers of the Thomsonian System. Our readers will at once see the necessity of these preliminary remarks, in order to prevent their being deceived and misled into premature and wanton opposition to their favorite system, by the chaste! elegant! and flowery! style of the author of the address!! Oh, brother Thomsonians! don't abandon us!—do n't abandon *the system* and follow those who teach men to "pour out their heart's pure blood in profuse libation, and quaff the deadliest poisons as a beverage."

The typographical execution of the pamphlet is so bad, that were it not that it bears the author's name upon the title-page, we should at once be led to infer that it was a "hoax"—or a "catch-penny!" It was "delivered in the Lecture Room of the Chester Co. Cabinet of Natural Science, West Chester, Pa., on December 31, 1836," and we presume was published by the authority of the "Cabinet." If they have many such *curiosities* in "*Natural Science*" in their "*Cabinet*," we must naturally conclude that literature and the arts and sciences, as well as *natural* philosophy, have made very extraordinary advances in West Chester! Pity it was n't known before!!—but,

"Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air"!!!

Let us now turn our attention to some *elegant extracts* from the address—no, no, we mean extracts from the *elegant* address! The author, (Sumner Stebbins, M.D.) in his introductory paragraph, says: "I appear before you this evening, not so much for the purpose of refuting the "Thomsonian System," as of making an exposition of it." Again, in the same paragraph, he says: "My object on the present occasion is merely a *disclosure*, [oh, horror!] of something which has been a good deal talked about of late, without being, as I think, well understood." So, here are the premises entirely changed! Now, this is too plaguey bad;—we'll leave it to any body if it aint! Oh, Sumner Stebbins, Sumner Stebbins!—you cruel, unjust, unrighteous man!—to raise our expectations that we were going to have a "refutation of the Thomsonian System," and then palm us off with *forty-eight pages* of "awful disclosures"!! Oh, it's too bad!—it is, it is!

"I shall endeavor as far as I am capable,"

(says Sumner Stebbins, and we have a marvelous strong presentiment that his *as far* will be only a *very leetle way*), "to give you a fair understanding of it, [the Thomsonian system] in order that you may be able to judge of its merits for yourselves." [How candid!]

The second paragraph of the address is introductory to an article of two pages and a half, written by a gentleman who had loaned Dr. Stebbins a Guide to Health which the purchasers, three in number, had "procured in such a way as to *elude* the agreement" "*not to reveal* any part of said information to any person, except to those who purchase the right, under the penalty of forfeiting his word and honor, and all right to the use of such medicines as are recommended in the book." The "gentleman" seems to be peculiarly adept in *eluding*, as he has completely eluded truth, honor and honesty, in the article quoted, so that not even the shadow of either remains. Of his truth, let the following "awful disclosure" serve as a sample: "*Twenty dollars* is the price of a "family right," and *five hundred dollars* the price of a "right" to practice it as a profession"!! We opine, this will be rather a startling "disclosure" to those practitioners who never paid a cent for the "right to practice it [Thomsonism] as a profession." Of all the number of Dr. Thomson's agents, we do not know of one who ever paid a cent, or of whom a cent was ever demanded, for the "right to practice." Did we not fear the gentleman would *elude* the question, we should call upon him for his "proofs." But as the matter stands, it would be of no use; and we truly think *he had better say no more*. A large portion of the article incorporated into the address, is devoted upon the expression of Dr. Thomson, that he thought the God of nature had implanted in him a "gift" in healing the sick. Now, we may be in error, but it does appear to us, that a person must be exceedingly destitute of argument, who is forced to resort to such contemptible quibbling. After saying that he is unacquainted with any principle on which to justify Dr. Thomson's patent, if Heaven did reveal to him what he professes to possess, he asks, "What, then, is the object of his patent? Does he expect by that means to secure to himself the revelations of the God of nature? Does he intend to stay the hands of the bountiful giver of every good and perfect gift? Does he design to debase Heaven, from exercising the

prerogative of bestowing such gifts on other men?—Or, does he, by virtue of his “patent,” prohibit others from using the gifts and enjoying the rights and privileges which their creator has allotted them?” Further on, he says: “The advocates of Thomsonism either do or do not believe it to be of Heavenly origin. If they do so believe, and if the “gift” cannot be communicated to others—“if no one can learn that gift”—from whence have they learned it? Either they have not learned it, or the twenty dollars or five hundred dollars “right,” as the case may be, is used as a *permit* or an *order* on the God of nature to bestow the “gift” upon the purchaser of the book.” Such is the language of the opponents of Dr. Thomson, merely because he chooses to ascribe to the God of nature those gifts, which some arrogant upstarts, did they possess them, would proclaim were the result of their own profound wisdom. And such are the arguments used in “refutation” of—no, we mean in making *disclosures* on—the Thomsonian System of Practice. We might here stop, for what Dr. Stebbins says, is but an indorsement of what we have already copied, and a repetition of other “awful disclosures,” which, though they may have emanated from another source, possess not one single jot or tittle more merit, either on the score of wit or argument.

Dr. Stebbins introduces *three pages!* of extracts from Dr. Thomson’s Narrative, which he says “will give the most clear and accurate ideas of the theory and practice of this pretended new system of medicine”!! We were always aware that Dr. Thomson wrote in a very concise and compendious style, but never even dreamed before, that “clear and accurate ideas” of his system of practice could be given in three duodecimo pages! No, this wonderful discovery!—this most “awful disclosure”—was reserved to be made by Sumner Stebbins, M.D. Oh, erudite Sumner Stebbins, whence obtained you the “gift,” which has thus enabled you to unlock such hidden mysteries!—to give the substance of an entire volume in *three pages!*

After laying down these “clear and accurate ideas” of Dr. Thomson’s theory and practice, Dr. Stebbins bursts forth in the following strain:

“Here, then, you have what Thomson calls “the general principles upon which I formed my system of practice,” and all in his own words.

“Here we might pause to admire its simpli-

city, whatever we may think of its correctness or profundity. Nothing could be more plain and *natural*. There is none of the *mystery of science* about it; nothing of the *quixotism of anatomy and physiology*; no taint of metaphysical and speculative paradox. It is perfectly free from the artful obscurities of Greek and Latin—all is as clear as a sun-beam, and almost as bright—every thing is rendered so palpably evident, that it would glimmer through a blind man’s eye.” [Dr. Stebbins, do you not know that mental blindness is worse than optical?] “The Thomsonians disclaim all knowledge on the subject of medicine, which is not derived from Thomson himself; yet they sometimes endeavor to fortify their system, by showing that Cullen, Brown, and the venerable Dr. Rush, held similar views. This, however, has been stoutly denied; and it must be acknowledged if we take a fair and undistorted view of the matter, it requires keen optics to discern it. But if we admit the notion of an ancient philosopher, that there is *some* connection between *all things*, it then becomes *almost* as clear as *mud*. [How poetic!] The rest of the book is taken up with a narrative of his life, and the cases he attended, and a repetition of what I have already read. The way he treated some of his patients was a “caution.”—[‘T was so, to the regulars.]

With a few more extracts, which may be found on pages 17, 18 and 19, we shall leave friend Sumner till our next number. We intended to have said all we wished to say about the address at one sitting; but not wishing to “bore” our readers too much at one time, we will “serve up” the doctor piece-meal; having said so much, we may as well finish him.

After quoting some of Dr. Thomson’s remarks on fevers, the doctor, among other classical comments and conclusive arguments! has the following:

“Such unparalleled nonsense defies all comment. Reason blushes to expose fooleries so disgraceful to the human mind, and it is useless to ridicule that which is supremely ridiculous.” [Granted, doctor; therefore we shall merely let you speak for yourself!] “To attempt to refute such shallow stuff, would be as humiliating to me, as it would be insulting to the intelligence of this audience to suppose such refutation necessary.”—[Very easy way to crawl out, doctor!] “I am satisfied that neither extracts nor commentaries, can give any adequate idea of the horrible and disgusting gibberish of the context. In this respect, it stands unrivalled and alone, and may, without the fear of contradiction, be set down as the most abominable outrage upon the English language and common sense, that was ever published.”

Oh, Sumner Stebbins! thou paragon of modesty! thou conservator of the King’s English! thou

pink of politeness! where hast thou been these many years, that thou hast but just merged into open day!—Oh, may the world profit by thy transcendant talents!—Would that thou hadst been Dr. Thomson's preceptor!—then perhaps his writings would not have been characterized by that "notorious disregard of truth," thou speakest of on page 12! Dr. Stebbins continues:

"His writings are a tissue of phantasma, the coinage of his stupid brain; of vague and unmeaning expressions of no more worth than such stuff as dreams are made of; from all of which not a solitary ray of medical knowledge emanates. They are, in short, a confused and disjointed jumble of ignorance, egotism, and knavery, and the most senseless vagaries that ever emanated from a sane or insane mind."

Now, doctor, don't you think you are too calm!—do you think that common courtesy demands *so much* RESPECT as this to a man UPWARDS OF SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE!—Do you ever expect to *convince* in this way? Dr. Thomson has not provoked this low, scurrilous blackguardism; and his venerable age alone should protect him from it. Others, however, come in for a share of verbiage, as follows:

"I am not disposed to deny but that many honest souls have, in the plenitude of their ignorance, swallowed it all down for sound medical philosophy. But the honesty and sincerity of such persons, proves nothing. And for this good reason. In order to know what is false, on any subject, or of any thing, it is necessary in the first place, to have some knowledge of what is true. Now, this knowledge of what is true in the science of medicine, they are wholly and sadly destitute of. Consequently, they are just as liable to embrace error as truth, and their opinions, or notions, whether true or false, are at best but conjectures, surmises, or whims of fancy, and entitled to no manner of weight. If they are ever right in any thing, they are right by chance, and if wrong it is because they know no better; and whether right or wrong, they are to be pitied for their ignorance, whatever we may think of their temerity."

There, Thomsonians, do n't you think Sumner gives you a pretty good character? One more example from this production—which stands unrivalled for its candor, truth and decency—shall for the present suffice:

"But with regard to such as have studied the anatomy and physiology of man, who have made themselves acquainted with the various forms of disease, and the means usually resorted to for its cure, the case is altogether different. *Such persons cannot* be believers in Thomson's doctrines, whatever they may profess—*because they know them to be false.* Whatever may be their opinions of the regular practice,

they know very well that Thomson's system, (if system it can be called,) is unrivalled for its incongruity. They *know* it to be a conglomeration of nauseous jargon, a rabble of the most fantastical and stupid conceits, that ever entered the head of fanatic or fool. Talk of a physician becoming a Thomsonian; the thing is an utter impossibility: it is in fact a perfect inconceivability. As well might darkness prevail amid the unclouded rays of a noon-day sun. Among informed men, particularly among medical men, there is, *there can be*, but *one opinion* of this thing called the "Thomsonian System." *All* that have made themselves acquainted with it, *must* regard it, and they *do* regard it, as the off-slough of ignorance and delusion, the very scum of all human absurdity. A record of all the follies, and humbugs, that ever bamboozled the human race, would not exhibit its equal."

We will conclude with "Sumner Stebbins, M. D.," and his awful "*disclosures*," in our next.

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.—Why the disease called St. Vitus's Dance was so denominated, is not known. Dr. Foster describes it as an affection of the limbs, resulting from nervous irritation closely connected with a disordered state of the stomach and bowels, and other organs of the abdomen. In papal times, fowls were offered on the festival of this saint, to avert the disease. It is a vulgar belief, that rain on St. Vitus's day, as on St. Swithin's day, indicates rain for a number of days following. It is related, after St. Vitus and his companions were martyred, their heads were enclosed in a church wall and were forgotten, so that no one knew where they were, until the church was repaired, when the heads were found, and the church bells began to sound of themselves, which causing inquiry, a writing was found, authenticating the heads; and they consequently received due honor, and worked miracles in due form!! If any of our friends are afflicted with this *celebrated dance*, they can be cured in short order by the Thomsonian remedies. Take our word for it.

WASHINGTON'S DEATH.

READ THIS, AMERICANS! and then give your verdict upon the murderous means which deprived your beloved WASHINGTON—"the Father of his country"—of his life:

"The *immediate cause* of the death of this man, will be seen clearly explained in Vol. XI. That the *lancet*, which has destroyed, in America, many more than have been destroyed by the Yellow Fever, PUT AN END TO HIS EXISTENCE, NO ONE CAN DOUBT."—[*Porcupine's Works*, by Cobbett, Vol. XII. p. 20.]

THE CONVENTION.

The call for a Thomsonian Convention seems to meet the views of all the friends of the cause. Our "Address" has been copied into all of the Botanic journals, so far as we have seen, and they have generally expressed themselves much in favor of the object. We would cheerfully insert their commentaries in the Manual, but have not the space to spare. Our correspondents, also, have responded to our call, with a promptness worthy of all praise.

The main points for consideration, suggested in our address, may be reduced to four distinct propositions, as follow:

1. What are Dr. Thomson's rights?
2. How shall they be secured to him?
3. At what prices can pure and genuine medicines be sold, to yield a fair profit?
4. What measures can be taken to stop the sale of "spurious" articles, and secret nostrums, as Thomsonian medicines?

To these we might add,

1. What ought to be the qualifications of individuals, in order to render them competent to enter the Botanic practice?—and how shall their qualifications be tested?
2. What measures are necessary with respect to those who practice, professedly on the Thomsonian system, without having exhibited their qualifications?
3. What would be the most judicious plan of organization and operation, in order to secure to the people the benefits of the system, and to awaken their attention to the subject?

These suggestions are made solely on our own responsibility; and we trust our friends, after carefully perusing, will regard them but as the opinions of a single individual; and if better measures can be proposed, these of course should be laid aside. Other matters will doubtless command a due share of attention, and will be brought up for consideration at the proper time. We do not wish too much to anticipate the proceedings of the Convention, but hope that one and all will, in the language of the Address, "fearlessly and frankly, yet in a friendly and candid manner, state their views, and suggest such measures as may be deemed most expedient." There seems to us to be a great necessity for some general and systematic organization of all the friends of the cause, in order to bring the subject directly before the people; and more particularly does there seem

to be a necessity for this now, in consequence of the number being large who have already embraced the Botanic system. We are inclined to believe, that the following extracts may contain many useful ideas on this head. They are from an "Abstract of the proceedings of the second annual meeting of the Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New-York, held at Geddes, Onondaga County, on the 13th and 14th June, 1837." After the choice of officers, and the usual preliminary business had been attended to, the committee appointed to propose further proceedings, made the following report:

"We, your committee, appointed to report further proceedings for the action of this meeting, beg leave to say,

"*That*, having heard the suggestions of several members of this Society, besides knowing the sentiments of a respectable portion of the Thomsonians in the State, and having taken the subject fully into consideration, do deem it expedient to authorize the formation of District Societies, as auxiliary to the State Society.

"In order to effect a complete organization among the Thomsonians in the State, and secure their co-operation with us in promoting the objects of this Society, we would propose to make a geographical division of the State into three districts, to be called the Eastern, Middle and Western."

[Here follows an enumeration of the counties which each district was to comprise.]

"We would recommend that a committee of five in each division be now appointed, to call a meeting in their respective districts for the purpose of organizing the Societies, adopting their regulations, &c. We would strictly enjoin each district the manifest propriety of forming their constitution so as to harmonize with that of the State Society; at the same time providing that there should be as many as twenty delegates appointed at each meeting next preceding the annual meeting of the State Society, to represent the said district in the State Society.

"We would also recommend that each district should establish a board of Censors, whose duty it shall be to criticise and examine, agreeable to the constitution, such persons as apply to them for license to practice; and if they find said applicants legal members of the Society, and well qualified to practice medicine on the Thomsonian system, they shall recommend them to the State Society as worthy of diplomas, and furnish them with certificates to that effect, which shall be forwarded by the delegates to the State Society, and the diplomas transmitted through them to the respective owners.

"Each District Society should make such by-laws and regulations as should be deemed necessary for the government thereof, without

conflicting with those of the State Society; and the said districts should hear and determine all questions of order, matters of difficulty, &c.; but in any case of dissatisfaction, either party might appeal to the State Society, whose decision should be final.

"The District Societies should likewise be so constituted that the members shall be entitled to a privilege of membership in the State Society.

"Your committee are fully of opinion, that if this plan should be carried into operation, it will be the means of calling together in the districts a very great number of Thomsonians, and concentrating their strength in this, the parent society, while it will secure to many the same privileges we now enjoy, that would otherwise be deprived of the immunities this Society affords."

It was then

"Resolved, That a committee of five in each district be now appointed to call meetings for the purpose of organizing District Societies."

The committees were accordingly appointed.

After which, it was

"Resolved, That the above committees be instructed to use their influence in their respective districts in notifying all persons owning family rights to attend the above appointed meetings for the purpose of organizing District Thomsonian Medical Societies, auxiliary to the State Society."

After the transaction of some other business, the committee appointed to propose measures, reported the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the Thomsonian system of medicine, in consequence of the rational and philosophical principles on which it is founded; its simple and efficacious means of removing disease and restoring health; and the unexampled success that has attended the administration of its remedies, has inspired a large and respectable portion of the people of this State with confidence in its utility and power, and afforded strong indications of its ultimately gaining the ascendancy over every system of medicine where the use of deadly drugs are deemed requisite to heal the sick. And, Whereas, in order to preserve this system of medicine unadulterated, and transmit it untarnished to future generations, it appears just and necessary, that all who administer the medicines should be under a complete system of regulations, both for their own mutual advantage, and the more rapid advancement of the great cause in which all mankind ought to feel an interest. Therefore,

"Resolved, That the suffering cause of humanity loudly calls upon us to take a decided stand against the practice of bleeding and blistering a man because he is sick; and to raise our united voices against the medicinal use of all mineral, animal, and vegetable poisons, that

are known to be deadly enemies to animal life, and entail on the system maladies that defy the art of man to eradicate.

"Resolved, That it is the undisputable duty of all professing Thomsonians, to join the Thomsonian Medical Society, and unite with us in disseminating a knowledge of the system among all classes of the people.

"Resolved, That it is the duty of every member to attend the meetings either of the state or district Societies as often as once in a year; and in case of a failure or refusal to attend for two years in succession, without a good and sufficient excuse, they should be adjudged guilty of the violation of the rules of this Society, and expelled from being a member.

"Resolved, That the benefits which have already arisen from the organization of this Society, and the maintenance of due regulations in the practice of medicine, have fully answered our widest expectations in securing the confidence of the people in the abilities of our physicians to minister in the healing art, and affording stronger inducements for young men of learning and talents to embark in the cause.

"Resolved, That we will not grant diplomas to any but those well qualified to practice medicine according to the letter and spirit of our constitution; and that it is the duty of all that make, or design to make, the Thomsonian practice a public profession, to obtain diplomas from this Society.

Resolved, That our object is not to effect "improvements," either in the theory or practice of the system of medicine discovered by Doctor Samuel Thomson; nor is it to secure a monopoly of practice among a few, to the exclusion of the many; but our object is only to exhibit it to the world in such a light that all may appreciate its blessings, and adopt it as their only safe and sure method of treating disease.

"Resolved, That it is the duty of the members of this Society, to communicate freely with each other on the nature of disease, its causes, symptoms and varieties, and the nature of their medicines, their manner of operating and way of treating disease, &c."

We subjoin the following articles from the Constitution of the N. Y. Medical Society, as amended and revised:

"Art. 1. This Society shall be known and called by the name of The Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York.

"Art. 2. Any person who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, is a citizen of the United States, possesses a good moral character, and a certificate for the right of practice secured to Dr. Samuel Thomson by letters patent by the President of the United States, may become a member by subscribing to this constitution, and paying the sum of one dollar into the Treasury.

"Art. 3. Any member of this Society may become a regular authorized practitioner by

studying the Thomsonian system of medical practice one year or more, and exhibiting such testimonials of character, ability, and general knowledge of medicine, of the human system, and the diseases to which it is subject, as shall secure him a **DIPLOMA** from the officers of this Society."

[Articles 4 to 8, inclusive, relate to the officers and their duties.]

"Art. 9. It shall be the duty of the **CENSORS** to criticise and examine any member of this Society, that applies to them, relating to his knowledge of the Thomsonian system of medicine, of the general principles of midwifery, of the relative position and the functions of the organic and vascular systems of the human body, of the various symptoms and nature of the diseases incident to man; and shall also present them a certificate from some regular practitioner of this Society, showing that he sustains a good moral character, and has studied the Thomsonian system of medicine for the term of at least one year, and if after due examination they find the said applicant well qualified to practice medicine as a Thomsonian botanic physician, they shall grant him a **DIPLOMA**, for which he shall pay into the treasury the sum of one dollar."

[Articles 10, 11, and 12, relate to the time which the officers shall serve—to the time and place of the annual meetings—and to the necessary rules respecting the transaction of business.]

"Art. 13. If any member of the Society that has a diploma does, by will, neglect, or bad management in practice, violate, or does not conform to the rules and regulations of this Society, shall, on conviction before the Society, be expelled by a vote of two-thirds of the members then present, and a notice of the same shall be published in one or more of the newspapers in the county where he resides

"Art. 14. No member of this Society shall practice phlebotomy, or use as medicine any mineral, animal or vegetable poison, or any deleterious drugs whatever.

"Art. 16. No person shall be fellowshipped by this Society as a practitioner, except he shall obtain a diploma from the board of Censors."

[Art. 16, relates to alterations in the Constitution; and 17, to the transaction of business, and the casting vote of the President.

The Constitution of the Botanic Society of the State of Connecticut, contains the following Article:

"Any person wishing to become a practitioner upon Dr. Samuel Thomson's System of Botanic practice, shall be under the tuition of one already in practice for the space of one year at least before presenting himself before the Board of Censors for examination." If any person shall pretend to practice upon the Thomsonian System in violation of the above Article, he

shall be published in the newspapers of the County in which he resides.

We are aware that there may be some objections to an organization of the kind above described; but much may be said in its favor—particularly in regard to the confidence which the public would feel in the practitioners. We will not, however, anticipate objections—but leave all for the consideration of the Convention.

[Original.]

New Haven, July 28, 1837.

To Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir,—Upon perusal of the "Thomsonian Manual," we find the opinion of Thomsonian physicians called for, relative to the propriety of an Eastern Convention, composed of Thomsonian practitioners, and also soliciting their advice, as it regards time and place for holding the same.

With respect to the propriety of such a Convention, we believe that if such an object were accomplished, it would serve to conciliate the feelings of adverse parties,—produce concert and union of action,—and gather in those hostile views, entertained by some professed Thomsonian practitioners toward you,—and they be led to sacrifice them upon the altar of the pure and glorious principles you have promulgated, and which have become so generally diffused. On that occasion, we should hope and sincerely wish, that the Convention might be honored with your presence, and that an interchange of sentiment might take place, calculated to subserve the cause of humanity in which you have been so nobly engaged for forty years. That your latter days may be prosperous, peaceful and happy, and that the system originating with you, might spread from pole to pole,—and that its healing and health-restoring powers might reach every hamlet in our favored land, we ardently desire. We believe, therefore, that the proposed Convention would have a happy influence in aiding the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

With respect to place, suffer us to say, that if it is designed to embrace the New England States only, Hartford, Conn., or Worcester, Mass., would meet our views; but if N. York State is included, then we would suggest N. York City, being accessible by water conveyance from most of the Eastern States. But we would not wish to dictate. Whenever and wherever it may be held, we, the undersigned, will be in attendance, extraordinaries excepted.

As to the time of the Convention, we would urge the importance of its being called without delay, and we merely suggest the propriety of issuing blank letters, or in some more convenient form, that intelligence might be generally extended, and that every genuine Thomsonian practitioner be notified, and even those who call themselves such,—that it might be fully as-

certained, who are determined to aid in the dissemination of correct medical principles, and who are *amalgamationists*.

The system of your discovery, Dear Sir, is rapidly gaining ground in this State, and especially in this country. Yes, Sir, even under the walls of the rotten medical institution located in this city. The practitioners in this County, besides the undersigned, are, Dr. Alfred Brown, Meriden; Dr. Sterne Hotchkiss, New Haven; Dr. Gustavus G. Field, Madison. Our Society enumerates about sixty members, all right-holders.

As far as in us lies, to preserve the system in all its *simplicity, purity, grandeur* and *efficiency*, our feeble exertions will be cheerfully granted. That all things may be done, to the pulling down of the hitherto "strong-holds" of the *regular poison dealers*, and for the triumph of the immutable principles for which you have been persecuted and defamed,—and that *Thomsonism*, in all its glory, may be transmitted to our posterity, we wish to lend our aid, feeble as it may be.

We make the above suggestions, not as dictators, but as feeble advisers; and for our esteem for your valuable labors in the cause of humanity, and our attachment to your medical principles, we subscribe ourselves, your ob't and humble servants,

Dr. B. W. SPERRY,

Dr. S. RICHARDSON,

JOHN M. BARLOW, *President of the New Haven Co. Thom. Society.*

STERNE HOTCHKISS, } *Secretaries do.*
SHARON Y. BEACH, }

☞ The editor of the Recorder, in his last number, inserted our "Address," and appended to it some rather sharp comments. We are not disposed to find the least fault with them, however, because they do, in the main, accord with *our own private opinions*; but he must recollect that the Manual is published under the "direction" of Dr. Thomson. Hence the insertion of the article on page 144, and a great many others of a similar character, in order to do away with which, we proposed the Convention—and should not that accomplish the object, we had determined to abandon the cause. Our editorial course, and private efforts, have been directed toward the promotion of unity and harmony amongst Thomsonians, and we sincerely hope that the proposed Convention will assemble with that spirit of compromise which shall produce the most happy results. We have long seen and deprecated the evils to which the Recorder alludes, and which were referred to in our Address, and, as a last resort, called for a Convention and advice, to determine upon the

best means to be essayed for their removal.—What the result will be, time alone can make known. That it will be successful is our most earnest wish.

[Original.]

Edwardsville, Illinois, July 11th, 1837.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir,—No other excuse is offered for troubling you on the present occasion, than necessity. Some time since, I purchased one of your family rights from Dr. J. Olive, of Alton, in this county. The effect of the medicine on my family has been highly satisfactory. But finding that there is a difficulty in getting pure and unmixed medicines of your kind in this country, where things of the sort are carelessly attended to, I have deemed it prudent to send you this note, requesting you to direct me, as soon after this comes to hand as possible, where your medicines are prepared and put up most to your satisfaction; or where one living in my region might most likely send for and get those of a genuine quality, put up in good order. I do not wish to be understood by this as uttering the least complaint against any one here, or elsewhere, concerned in your interest. I merely wish to take care for "number one," and his immediate dependants. I believe that some of your medicines come to the remote West impure, and of inferior quality; but by whose fault it so comes, I know not, more than the dead in their graves.

I see in your published work, you promise a book for the benefit of women and children. Please let me know, whether you have sent out to the public that or any other new work. The certificate given to me by Mr. Olive, is now before me, and is numbered 469, (ninth edition). Signed by Jarvis Pike & Co., agents for Samuel Thomson.

Ours is a sickly country, and requires perhaps three times the quantity of cure for a family, that is requisite at the East. This country is now flooded with water; such heavy and continued rains, I have not seen in a residence of twenty-eight years, hence we look for a *fall*, or latter part of summer, of sickness.

Were it certain that this would ever reach you, and that you would certainly give it your attention, more would be said; but as these things are as yet hid from my mind, I content myself, for the present, by subscribing myself,

Your most obedient, B—R—.

☞ We are extremely sorry to hear the facts respecting the badness of the medicines sold at the West; but we are constrained to admit the truth of our friend's complaint, because we have received a great many similar ones before. Dr. Thomson wishes us to say, that he has much confidence in the medicines vended by *Godfrey Meyer & Co., Baltimore, Md.*, and recommends

all who can, to purchase there. There has, as yet, been no "book for the benefit of women and children," published by Dr. Thomson.—
ED. MANUAL.

The last "Botanic Sentinel" says:

"The discussion between Drs. Draper and Sleigh, will not appear in the new volume, as was promised in the prospectus. The publisher of the Sentinel was at considerable expense in procuring an accurate report for this purpose; but he finds, upon giving it an attentive perusal, that it would be much too tedious for a magazine publication. The discussion contains little or no practical information with regard to Thomsonism, and could not be published, in justice to the cause, without copious explanatory notes, which would occupy the Sentinel almost exclusively for several months."

The same number of the Sentinel from which the above is extracted, contains also a new prospectus, which differs from the one recently published in the following particular, in addition to what is stated above. We refer our readers to the prospectus which we have published, and again commend the Sentinel to their patronage. We would cheerfully give the new prospectus an insertion, but have not room in the present number, and to do so at another time, would doubtless be too late in the day.

The following is the alteration alluded to:

"The new volume will be issued every two weeks, in handsome magazine form, with neatly printed covers. The subscriber has been induced to do this at the request of a large number of his subscribers. The Sentinel, in its new dress, will no doubt prove more acceptable to all; and as it will contain as much reading matter as any other Thomsonian publication in the United States, the publisher trusts that he will receive a corresponding degree of patronage."

☞ The letter of Dr. Nathaniel S. Magoon, dated 25th July, was not received until the communication signed "Stephen F. Fowler," was in type, and printed—otherwise it would have been suppressed. We cannot possibly find room for his letter in this Manual, but it shall appear in our next; and we will extend to him the privilege of our pages to reply to Mr. Fowler, and to exonerate himself from every imputation which may have been cast upon him through the Manual, if he can do so. We will at this time state, that he has taken down the "sign," which has caused so much trouble, and to the best of our knowledge and belief now uses genuine medicines. He says that he is

able to prove Fowler's charges to be false; let the public, therefore, suspend their opinion.

DOCTORS OUT OF BUSINESS.—The Buffalo Journal says, that city is so healthy, the doctors have nothing to do—and seven of them were seen together on the pier fishing. We intend to give the out-of-business diplomatic gentry in this section—and there is no small number of them—a start, one of these days, which will be likely to leave them in the vicinity of the Thomsonian Recorder, who will probably second the motion, by landing them west of the Rocky Mountains. Look out, neighbor!—They'll be along soon!

☞ Why do n't our agents write for the Manual, and try to get subscribers for it more than they do? It is assuredly for their interest to do so; a communication would be equivalent to an advertisement. Those, especially, who keep Infirmarys, can do much for the Manual, with little trouble to themselves, and much benefit. Will they not do it? A friend, who was in an Infirmary three weeks, (where more than sixty courses a month have been given,) never even heard the word "Manual" spoken during that time, and knew not that there was such a publication in existence; but, when subsequently apprised of the fact, instantly subscribed.

Mr. Russell, a surgeon, while dissecting a body at St. Bartholomew's, received a slight scratch on his hand, from one of the bones. In a few hours, inflammation supervened, and though every aid was afforded, (which scientific skill could suggest), death ensued in five or six days from the time the accident happened. Our readers will find a case very similar to this, on page 74, in the article on small-pox, where we were speaking of the danger of inoculation.

THE WORLD GROWING HONEST.—A foreign medical writer, possessing more candor than the majority of his brethren, lately asserted that "physic is the art of amusing the patient, while nature cures the disease." This is pretty well: but he would have come nearer the mark if he had said, *Physic is the art of keeping the patient sick, while the Doctor pockets the cash!*

WHAT NEXT?—A doctor in New York, alive to the inventions of the day, is about to issue Electro Magnetic Pills. Of course we shall have the Galvanic Lotion.

AMUSING SIMILE.—From an article in a late number of the Thomsonian Recorder, we extract the following:

"It is in vain to object that we need legislative protection from impositions that might be played upon us by medical impostors; for, if we did, who would protect? "Oh, the Legislatures." But these are of the people, and are no more able than their constituents to judge in such matters. "But those [the faculty] to whom the people's representatives grant the monopoly, will judge who is fit to enjoy its benefits, and very disinterestedly state the fact on a paper thence called a "Diploma." Verily, this is taking the united testimony of clans of foxes for the honesty of each individual of their number, setting them separately to guard flocks of geese, and denying to the living geese not only the capacity to testify respecting the conduct of Reynard towards the dead, or the crippled and feeble that may, from time to time, survive; but also their right to reject him whom, from his devastations among their number, and their own frequent hair-breadth escapes from him, they had great reason to hate; and to choose for themselves a less dangerous, if not a more efficient protector."

We perceive by the New-York papers, that a woman in that city recently gave her child so much *morphine* to keep it quiet, that the poor little thing never awoke. Really, it seems that some prompt and energetic measures should be taken to have this article prohibited from use. "Evil, and only evil, and that continually," accompanies its exhibition. Accounts of the awful havoc of human life made by it, reach us from all quarters—the half of which we do not publish.

A Dr. Farnum, of Batavia, (N. Y.,) has been convicted of using "mandragora, or some other potent drug," to take from his patient the sense of consciousness, and during the interregnum of mind, rifled the pockets of the victim to the tune of \$300. The doctor is not the first of the medical fraternity, who has robbed his patient by means of his medicines—his compeers, however, generally prefer a more indirect method, but in either case the *depletion* of the pockets is equally effectual.

QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!—A physician of New York says, that during the past year, he has attended four cases of apoplexy, caused by wearing tight boots!!! If such is the effect of wearing tight shoes, the Chinese women must be sorely troubled with this distressing complaint.

EFFECTS OF QUACK-ERY!—A lady in West Newbury, who slept in a room on the ground floor, was recently frightened into a fit of hysterics by the *quacking* of a number of ducks, who somehow or other contrived to waddle into her bedroom in the morning. Poultry have grown prodigiously uncivil!

A CLOSE CUT!—"Doctor," said a snuff-taking old lady, "do you think snuff hurts the brains?" "Oh, no, Madam," replied Esculapius, "people with brains never take snuff."—We rejoice we have abandoned the habit!—always thought there was some good reason for our wish to leave off taking snuff!!!

"A few Facts of some interest," may be found on page 162. It is the communication of our friend "Consistency,"—and to say it is good, is "too faint praise"—it is first-rate!—and we commend it to our readers, if they wish to read something that is ingenious and interesting.

A physician of New York says, that during one week, he attended four cases of apoplexy, caused by wearing tight boots! He should have added, they all died!—a natural inference.

Dr. W. S. JOHNSON'S *hellenikos*—[*Ἑλληνικός*—Greek.]—We did think that we would not expose the badness of W. S. Johnson's Greek; but, for our own amusement, we have changed our intention, and will show that he is unfortunate in the use of Greek as well as English. In our first reply to him, we stated that a portion of his remarks was perfect Greek to us. In reply, Johnson says: "it appears that the third "paragraph" of my communication is incomprehensible to your sensitive powers, and to you *telios hellenikos*." Now, "*hellenikos* [*Ἑλληνικός*]" signifies Greek; but "*telios*" is a word we do not find in our *Lexicon*, and do not recollect ever to have seen it before. Had he used the word *τέλειος* [*téleios*] we should have understood him,—*τέλειος* signifying complete, perfect, full, &c. The sentence would then have read: and to you *téleios hellenikos* [*τέλειος Ἑλληνικός*]
—i. e. and to you perfect Greek. By the way, the next time you undertake to write η in English, put *ee*, instead of *e*; i. e. *helleenikos*, instead of *hellenikos*. We ought to have said, however, in the first place, that Johnson's English, or, rather, his "third paragraph," was *more* unintelligible to us than Greek. We should then have hit the mark; for we can understand Greek better than bad English. Johnson is, doubtless, a pretty clever fellow; Mais alors ses mots sont indifféremment choisis, et trop boursoufflés pour des occasions ordinaires. Il préfère les mots savans, aux mots simples et communs.

DOGGEREL VERSES.

A PARAPHRASE
ON A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY—OR,
A COMPEND
OF THE HISTORY OF
MR. AARON DOW.

A few years since—O! shame—disgrace!
A *petty Broker* kept a place,
In Fed'ral-street, I vow;
Young men and girls who sought employ,
Into his place he did decoy:
His name was Aaron Dow.

Intelligence he promis'd all,
Who at his *office*, there, would call—
A dollar pay—or more; *
When he their money had obtain'd,
He has them sev'ral days detain'd,
To tramp the city o'er. †

But oftentimes they did obtain,
Naught but their labor for their pain,—
And then return to Dow
And ask of him their cash again,
But Dow would say, in language plain,
"I'll keep the cash, I vow." ‡

At length he found, unto his cost,
Most of his business he had lost,—
Young men did him despise:
Young *ladies*, too, did pass him by,
And, with young men, join in the cry—
"The smooth-tongued scoundrel lies."

And when he could no longer live,—
As few would him a dollar give,
For being fool'd outright;
To play *new tricks* he did presume—
A *Doctor's* name did then assume,
And in these tricks delight.

At number ninety, Fed'ral-street,
A house he took the sick to greet,
And show his famous skill;
His blunders soon his fame did damp,—
His former dupes, cried—"flee the scamp,"
Which did his business kill.

To Newburyport he soon did post—
Did puff himself, and loudly boast,
"No Doctor great as I:
I am great Doctor Aaron Dow,—
I'll cure you all—I'll cure you now,
If you'll to me apply." §

With mighty zeal, he undertook,
To write down all the *regular flock*
Of old physicians there;
But their retorts, and satire keen,
(As from his movements may be seen,)
Made Doctor Aaron stare.

The odds against him were so strong,
He found he could not get along,—
His patients him forsook;
When eighteen months were pass'd and gone,
He back to Boston, then did come,
And a large house he took.

He still continued loud to boast—
Himself the theme of ev'ry toast,
Which did escape his pen:
His patients suffer'd from neglect—
When they good treatment did expect,
They have insulted been.

His honest debts he will not pay,—
Unto his creditors doth say,
"I'm out of money quite;"
When in his pocket, then he had,
Enough to pay the debt—too bad:
To cheat, is his delight.

A poor young girl, who work'd for him,
And kept his household in good trim,
Her wages could not get:
Ten dollars due ||—away she went,—
He swore he would not pay a cent,—
She sued him for the debt.

As Doctor Thomson's Agent—he
A *bond* had sign'd, to faithful be
Unto the Doctor's views;
His med'cines all, both wet and dry,
Agreed of Thomson for to buy,
And not his trust abuse.

Of Thomson he did oft make sport—
He trespass'd much in Newb'ryport—
Deception was his trade;
In Brattle-street, he did the same—
Sold med'cines in S. Thomson's name,
Which he himself had made.

He Thomson owed, in point of right,
A debt of seventy dollars quite—
He swore he'd never pay;
But wish'd the debt *five times as large*,
And which he never would discharge:
He'd sooner run away.

A lot of med'cine he'd on hand,
On which was plac'd "Thomsonian" brand,
(Prepar'd by 'Aaron Dow,')
Of this he gave a 'Bill of Sale,'
To cheat the Doctor without fail,
Then bragg'd—"I've fix'd him now." ¶

Stop, Mister Dow—not quite so fast—
For Thomson has nabb'd you at last,—
And well-secur'd his debt;
The med'cine was in Lowell found,
All snugly stor'd below the ground,—
So do n't your gizzard fret.

Now, to conclude, friend Aaron Dow,
I would advise you after now,
To be an *honest* man:
With candor your past life review,—
O! virtue seek, and truth pursue,
And justice ever scan.

AN OBSERVER.

Boston, Mass., July 15, 1837.

[NOTES.]

* Girls were charged but fifty cents.

† This was not always the case—but that it was many times the case, is a notorious fact.

‡ This though not always, was many times the fact.

§ I do not pretend to say, that he used *precisely* these words, as they here stand; but he did use words to about the same effect.

|| She had earned more, which he had paid to her—but this is the amount due when she left him.

¶ His furniture and fixtures he had previously put out of his hands, to prevent not only Dr. Thomson, but other creditors, from attaching. Soon after he gave a 'Bill of Sale' of the medicine, he carried it to Lowell and stored it in a cellar, where it was found by the person who was sent by Dr. Thomson in search of it, and was immediately attached; consequently the debt was secured.

PROSPECTUS

FOR THE THIRD VOLUME

OF THE

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.



Doct. SAMUEL THOMSON, Proprietor.

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, Editor.



"The whole art of medicine was founded in conjecture, and improved by murder."—*Sir Anthony Carlisle.*

"It is so impossible to separate the useful from the trivial, that it were better to reject it all."—*Lieutaud.*

"I am sick of learned quackery."—*Prof. Waterhouse.*

"There must be a medical reform."—*Prof. Jackson.*

"While pursuing the old study, I was never satisfied; but after an impartial investigation of Dr. Thomson's System, I became its firm, bold and undaunted friend; from the fact, the remedies prescribed being safe, powerful, speedy, and efficacious."—*W. K. Griffin, M. D.*

"We must adopt the Thomsonian remedies, or lose our practice. * * I have used steam, pepper and lobelia, and found them useful medicines to remove disease."—*Prof. McClellan.*

The publication of the *Third Volume* of the THOMSONIAN MANUAL, will be commenced on the 15th of November next. The coming volume, like its predecessors, will be devoted to the diffusion and defence of that System of Medical Practice, discovered by, and patented to, Dr. Thomson.

Cases of interest, treated upon the Thomsonian plan, will be reported from time to time; and matters of fact, of every description, that have a bearing upon the subject, will be spread before the public.

As heretofore, the Manual will contain a large proportion of *original matter*, and no exertions will be spared to keep pace with that march of improvement in Medical Science, which the introduction of the Botanic Practice has, within a few years, advanced with a rapidity unequalled in the history of other sciences.

It is deemed necessary that such a work should be published, for the purpose of putting the public generally, and the friends of the system particularly, in possession of the facts relative to the system, &c., and thereby enabling them to correct some few of the many false reports and misrepresentations, by which individuals, and the public, are continually abused.

The MANUAL appears to be fast gaining favor amongst the people; and the patronage already received warrants the Proprietor in making some effort to improve and enlarge the work.

Our friends are requested to use their best endeavors to extend the circulation of the MANUAL; and we assure them that renewed exertions will be made to improve its usefulness, and merit an increase of public patronage.

CONDITIONS:

The MANUAL will be issued monthly, at Boston, Mass., on a super-royal sheet, in octavo form, convenient for preservation and binding. The covers will hereafter be omitted, which will diminish the amount of postage one half, and additional matter will be inserted in the numbers—thereby greatly enhancing the value of the work.

The annual subscription is ONE DOLLAR, payable at the time of subscribing. Those who fail to notify a discontinuance, will be considered as subscribers until such notice is given, and no subscription will be received for a less term than one year.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding five dollars, (free of postage,) will be appointed as such, and entitled to a copy *gratis* for one year.

✍ All letters on business, communications, &c., must be addressed (*post paid*) to Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, 33, Washington-street, Boston, Mass.

Boston, August, 1837.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME II.]

BOSTON, OCTOBER 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 12.]

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*,
By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, *Printer and Publisher.*

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.
JEREMIAH CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

TERMS.—ONE DOLLAR per annum, IN ADVANCE.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *five dollars*, will be appointed as such and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*),
No. 33, Washington Street, Boston.

[Original.]

EXTRACTS FROM A LECTURE.

[I cheerfully comply with the request of a friend, to have the following extracts from one of my lectures published; and trust that I have not curtailed them too much. I could not well have given more, without making very lengthy extracts.—J. CHAPMAN.]

* * * "He [Dr. Thomson] considers old age, casualties alone excepted, the only cause of death incident to man. And the success of his practice certainly warrants the universality of this belief, even if there were no other reasons for entertaining it. Sure I am, that no one would willingly reject it, had he plausible reasons for retaining it. Let us see if there are no good reasons for such a belief: We find in the Bible various periods set down as the life of man. In some places, we read of men who have lived to the astonishing age of nearly 1,000 years! In others, that 120 years was the age of man; and again in others, that the age of man is three-score years and ten.

"What is the age of man now? Who can now presume to count upon a year, a month, a week, or a day, from the hour of birth to death? Who now, even for the shortest period of time, can feel assured that some one of those by whom he is surrounded,—those in the very hey-day of life, and health, and usefulness,—will not, ere this day week, be ushered to that "bourne, from whence no traveller returns"?"

"My friends, this subject begins to assume an important bearing upon our interests and welfare. I feel its importance myself; and trust that what I have said, and may say, will not be lost upon your minds. I am aware that in the brief space of time which I shall address you, I can place but little before your imaginations; and I beg you will pursue the subject at your

leisure moments. Should I find [that my efforts have been the means of eliciting inquiry and attention to this subject, it will afford me the greatest satisfaction and pleasure I ever expect to enjoy.

"Go to the public cemeteries, and there learn a melancholy lesson! Read the inscriptions upon the monuments which kindred love has there erected, and you will find that seven-eighths of those interred there, have died ere they had arrived at man or womanhood! Read, and ponder! Ask the grave, how came they there?—Ask their spirits who sent them there? The answer will be—MERCURY! You may there learn, that poisonous minerals, extracted from the bowels of the earth, and planted in the mortal bodies, which rest beneath the green surface upon which you tread, like the magnet-needle, had, with irresistible impulse, drawn them to untimely graves!

"I cannot now detail the pernicious effects of mineral medicines; that they are deleterious, nay, worse than useless, I am fully persuaded, and think I can easily prove. I feel it a duty to caution my fellow men against their use entirely and forever. Sooner would I, were I sick, let nature have its course unaided, and unopposed by a mineral doctor, than I would submit, had I my senses, to their treatment. It is uncertain, unsafe and dangerous; and at war with nature, reason and common sense. Of its uncertainty, few, if any, will dispute, and very many have admitted and lamented the fact.—Much discrepancy of opinion has always existed, amongst the teachers of medicine, and consequently all must have followed very opposite modes of practice. The healing art has advanced but slowly, and it would not be profitless to spend a little time in inquiring into the causes which have, and which still retard the advancement of the science.

"The ancients knew scarcely any thing of anatomy or physiology. Their pathological notions were mere conjecture, and their conjectures were made without good foundation; hence they added but very little valuable information to the stock of medical knowledge. Another cause which has impeded the progress of medical science, was presumption, out of which arose false philosophy. Men have vainly erected imaginary laws, to account for phenomena which they observed, and have attempted to make the operations of nature accord with their theories. These imaginary laws have been changed a thousand times, but nature remains immutable, and her operations are eternally the same.

"Credulity was, and is, a powerful cause in

upholding error, and obstructing the cause of medical truth. Few men like the trouble of thinking for themselves, and many are content with following the opinions of some daring speculator, and echoing the views of a popular teacher, or University professor. And this is too often the case, where we would not expect to find it. History relates, that a monk, contemporary with Galileo, discovered some spots on the sun, and communicated the discovery to a brother monk, who told him that he had read the works of the great philosopher Aristotle, through with diligence and attention, and that he could find no mention of this phenomena in them; and therefore advised him not to divulge the secret, lest the people should deem him mad. Many physicians are like this said monk; they read the books of some celebrated man, and then settle down into the easy complacency, and stupid reflection, that they are then in the possession of all knowledge. In spite of these facts, and facts they are, we daily hear our physicians boasting of their four thousand years' experience, and of the researches and advances in science of the ancients, which is all handed down to them! Indeed, if the retrograde marches in true science go on for another century, as they have done in centuries past, after generations will be enveloped in the miasmatic atmosphere of mysticism and folly!

"Cunning has been a prolific cause in retarding the progress of the science of medicine, and is so at the present day. 'The ancients,' says a distinguished teacher of medicine, 'were composed of two classes, knaves and fools. The knaves, who were few, contrived to keep the fools, who were many, in a state of profound ignorance.

"The priests, to whom the slender knowledge of the healing art which existed was principally confined, increased their authority by concealing their ignorance, and making a mystery of what little they knew. Generation after generation made but little progress. Galen mixed up his own philosophy with the doctrines of Hippocrates; and men were for a long time content with commentaries on the writings of these men, till in the sixteenth century, Paracelsus, discarding the authority of Galen, attempted to establish chemical principles, some of which exist, at least in practice, to this day."

"In the next century, (seventeenth,) Harvey, Sydenham, Boerhaave, Stahl, and Hoffman, introduced new views, and various medical theories, which considerably influenced the practice of the healing art.

"In more recent times, Cullen, Darwin, Rush, and Broussais, have rendered themselves conspicuous by their medical doctrines, and each in his turn, has had his day of glory, which is fading away before the lights of experimental and sound philosophy.

"Each of the celebrated men, whose names I have just mentioned, taught different doctrines, and their practice was governed accordingly. One advocated general disease, another asserted

that all morbid affection arose from local irritation. Another, that the solids only were concerned, another that the fluids were associated; one advocated the existence of an intelligent spirit governing the agents, another denied it. One asserted the existence of a sanative power in the system, another boldly contradicted it. One bled, and purged, and blistered, another condemned that practice, and gave opium and brandy; while another denounced both as heretics, and loudly asserted that mercury was the grand specific for all the maladies of mankind!

"Amidst the conflicting opinions of men, and the opposite modes of practice adopted by the disciples of different creeds, it is no wonder, that with the general spread of intelligence among all classes of people, that doubts should arise, as to the efficacy of the plans of treatment generally pursued by the medical faculty. These doubts are increasing throughout the land,—a spirit of inquiry is awakened, that must, in its results, advance the cause of useful science, and promote the best interests of humanity. The people have for years been loud in their denunciations against the impositions of certain other crafts; they have now wisely turned their attention to those of doctor-craft;—and the more they examine the matter, the more they will become convinced that it is not essential for the student of medicine to understand either Latin or Greek, to be a correct interpreter of the phenomena of nature; or that he should have parchment authority to enlighten his understanding or confer skill. Wretched, indeed, is the condition of people, whose confidence reposes on the learned lumber and stupid nonsense of lazy visionaries, and aristocratic humbugs!

"I will introduce one case here, illustrative of the stupidity and folly of confining the practice of medicine to the authority of books. The case is one related by Dr. Robinson, in his Lectures on Medical Botany. He knew a case, he says, which will be certified by a gentleman of that city, (Cincinnati.) He was attacked with rheumatism so severely as to be confined to his bed, and helpless, for five or six months. The physician gave him no relief, but rather aggravated his complaint. A poor woman, from the country, said she could cure it by a certain herb tea; in twenty-four hours after using the tea, he was able to walk his room; the doctor called, was astonished at the change, and was informed what produced it: 'Psha!' said he, 'I knew that remedy long ago.' 'And why,' said the patient, in a rage, which almost induced him to take the doctor's life on the spot, 'why did you not then relieve me from such excruciating sufferings?' 'Because,' said the doctor very coolly, 'the remedy *was not set down in our books!*' The authority of books, as Dr. Robinson very justly remarks, has often set at defiance the authority of reason and justice, and trampled down the peace, and sense, and independence of man."

[Original.]

THE CONVENTION.

MR. EDITOR,—I was much gratified in reading an article in the last Manual, headed “An Address to Dr. Thomson’s agents, and to all others favorable to the extension of the Thomsonian system of Medical Practice.” For myself, I have long felt that a reconciliation between Dr. Thomson, and those persons who have formerly shared his confidence, ought, of possible, to take place. It appears evident to me, that the course which has heretofore been pursued, on all hands, has not been the right one to bring about the desired reconciliation—a reconciliation demanded by the people and by humanity. For so long as there are discords, and jealousies, and bickerings fostered,—so long, I say, as the parties go on in this way,—so long the advancement of the work of reform must linger; and consequently the world be deprived, in a great degree, of the benefits which they might have enjoyed, had not their confidence been destroyed by these unpleasant circumstances.

But, which party have been the aggressors, I am not prepared to say. I cordially approve of the call for a Convention, and I am sure that every honest person, who feels an interest in the subject, will give it his decided approbation. Let all those who feel themselves aggrieved, come boldly forward, and with clean hands and honest hearts lay their causes of complaint before the Convention, or a committee chosen for the purpose, and have an amicable adjustment of their difficulties.

Perhaps, when the parties meet, and go into a candid investigation of the subject, they will find that they have both been too hasty, and that interested individuals have, for sinister motives, got up a difficulty between Dr. Thomson and his agents, for the sake of enriching themselves in securing the profits on the sale of medicine to themselves; and others, from a spirit of jealousy and envy, have thought that Dr. Thomson was enriching himself at their expense, by asking an exorbitant price for his medicine; when, if the truth were known, he was asking no more than a fair compensation for his trouble and expense.

As for myself, I have always had my medicines of Dr. Samuel Thomson, or some one who has been authorized to sell the same under him; and if I have been imposed upon, then my confidence has been taken advantage of, for I have thought that all those who practised upon Dr. Thomson’s system, were under an obligation to purchase their medicine of him, provided they did not have to pay more than a fair compensation for his trouble and expense in furnishing the articles that were needed.

[We here omit a few suggestions respecting the most proper place for holding the Convention—that having already been decided upon. ED. MAN.]

I would recommend to all those now in the Botanic practice, who are not in good fellowship with Dr. Thomson, to come on like honest men, and have a fair statement of their cases made out, that the people may know who is in the wrong, if either, or both parties; and have a reconciliation brought about; and much good, we trust, will be accomplished by so doing. But if either party should refuse and neglect to appear, or have a fair investigation, they would justly be considered the party in fault, and should receive the censure of the Convention.

These, Mr. Editor, are my views; and if you think them of sufficient importance, you may give them a place in the Manual.

EZRA EDSON, T. B. P.

Factory Point, (Vt.) Aug. 3, 1837.

[Original.]

Troy, (N.Y.) August 26, 1837.

DR. THOMSON—Sir:

I take this method of addressing a few lines to you, upon the progress of the Thomsonian system in this place. It is gaining ground in this city somewhat, but not so rapidly as it would, if we had had, long before this, a thorough Thomsonian Practitioner. I have been acquainted with this system for nine or ten years, and have been fully convinced of the usefulness of the medicine in curing diseases. Seeing the necessity of more practitioners in this city, I have commenced practice myself, and I hope by following your method of treatment to meet with good success.

I saw Mr. Vanderheyden, when he returned from Boston, and he handed me the Prospectus for the third Volume of the Manual, and wished me to act as agent for the same in this city. I have obtained six subscribers, besides myself, and can obtain more for the third volume if you will oblige me by sending me three or four of the next number. I will forward the money by the last of next month, with the names of the subscribers. If you see fit you may appoint me an agent in this city. Your’s, &c.

F. C. CORNELL, T. B. P.

[We appoint Dr. Cornell, an agent for the Manual, and hope he will interest himself to extend it as much as possible. Should be pleased to have him contribute any thing of interest which may come under his observation from time to time.—ED. MAN.]

ANONYMOUS RECIPES.

To prevent wounds from mortifying—Sprinkle sugar on them. The Turks wash fresh wounds with wine, and sprinkle sugar on them.

Obstinate Ulcers may be cured with sugar dissolved in a strong decoction of walnut leaves.

Felons.—Green leaves of *Lobelia Inflata*, (Thomson’s emetic,) pounded fine, wet with whiskey or other spirits, and applied to felons, is said to cure them.

[Original.]

Middletown, (Ct.) August 17, 1837.

MR. EDITOR—Sir: I have long had in contemplation writing you on the subject of my practice, and the success which has hitherto attended my exertions in the "noble cause of humanity," which I had the satisfaction of first introducing into this State, as a regularly licensed practitioner of the Botanic Med. Society of Dutchess Co., N.Y.

I commenced practice in 1828, at Goshen, (the town in which I had resided several years,) under rather inauspicious circumstances, owing to various causes, which will be better imagined than expressed. The almost total want of a knowledge of the merits and value of the new system, together with the slowness of heart to believe and adopt any thing that is new, being peculiar to the people of this State, were perhaps the greatest difficulties I had to encounter; which, with many other discouragements, made it appear a rather adventurous undertaking. But notwithstanding the many difficulties I had to contend with, having full confidence in my abilities and in the system of practice, and casting aside all difficulties and minor considerations, I reared the Thomsonian standard, and began my practice.

The first two cases of importance that came under my care, were my own children, of *Canker Rash*; they were violently seized. There were four other cases in the neighborhood, at the same time—two in one family: they all died, treated *secundum artem*. By proper management and strict attention, I was successful and cured both of mine, although they were considered by many who saw them, to be the worst cases of the kind they had ever seen, wherein the patients recovered; which opinion was verified by that of a certain M.D., Dr. P., who called in, out of curiosity; as he observed, knowing that I was treating them upon the Thomsonian principles. After a critical examination, he pronounced them to be desperate cases, and pointing to one of them said—"That child will die: the other may possibly recover, but I think you will lose them both." I reciprocated his kindness by thanking him for his friendly call, politeness and advice; and he then left me to pursue my own course, which I did, to the joy and satisfaction of myself and family.

I attended many desperate and important cases, which would be encroaching too much on your pages to insert; suffice it to say, my practice was universally successful while at Goshen. In the spring of 1833 I removed to this place, where I commenced practice. My difficulties were equally numerous which I had to contend with in introducing the practice, but with untiring zeal I continued onward in a straightforward course, and during a practice of three years my success has been very great. I have for several years kept an Infirmary for the reception of the sick, and have cured many, of

both chronic and acute diseases, of the worst form. In fact, as fast as the system becomes known, and is duly appreciated, so fast it is almost universally adopted, and consequently votaries are as often gained. I have for most of the time, as much practice as I can possibly attend to, exclusive of the Infirmary.

The people are fast becoming convinced of the vast superiority of Botanic Medicines over Mineral,—and that once dreaded *hydra monster Steam*—the fiery, burning *Cayenne*—and that life-destroying *Lobelia*—have all lost their terrors; and in spite of falsehood and deception, the true light is still shining—error flies like the morning dew before the bright effulgent beams of the rising sun. As to the opposition of the "Doctors," I consider it but of trifling consequence; and notwithstanding some of "Esculapius's sons" gave me but three months—and others, more liberal, one year—in which to establish Thomsonism, become notorious, and flee the place; as fain they would have the people believe we were miserable exiles, fit only for a penitentiary or state prison. But to their sad discomfort, three years have rolled away, and I have been favored with full employ and good success.

If you deem the above worthy a place in the Manual, please insert. I may at some future period, favor you with a communication, accompanied with a relation of important cases, their various treatment, and the result of the Thomsonian remedies. I fully concur with the opinion of many in the forthcoming Convention, and shall probably attend.

Yours, &c.

JAMES T. STRATTON, T. B. P.

INNATE ANTIPATHY. — Several of the papers have stated that in Vermont, there is, or lately was, a young man *who could not speak to his father*. Previous to his birth, some misunderstanding arose between his parents, under which the wife refused for a considerable length of time, to speak to her husband. This child, born after their reconciliation, began to talk in due time, and without difficulty, excepting with his father, in whose presence it was entirely dumb. This continued till the fifth year of the child, the father using all his powers of persuasion to induce the child to speak. At this time he tried threats and punishment, to overcome what was supposed to be obstinacy; but the sighs and groans of the little sufferer plainly indicated that all attempts to speak were unavailing. Time produced no change; all attempts of the son, at years of maturity, to converse with his father, elicited nothing but bitter sighs and groans.

SYMPTOMS OF CONSUMPTION.—It is stated that over one hundred pair of corsets were sold at a cheap store in Philadelphia in one day. The ladies of that city are determined the *pressure* shall not be confined to the gentlemen.

THOMSONISM IN LYNN.

From the Lynn Record, of July 19th, we copy the following well-deserved notice of Dr. Patten, and his Infirmary. We can cheerfully add our own testimony to that of the editor of the Record, having often visited Dr Patten's establishment; and would further remark, that any person, about entering the practice, would do well to visit Dr. P., and examine his well-adapted system of operations.

THOMSONIAN MEDICAL PRACTICE.

We have never examined the Thomsonian system of practice or formed any opinion as to its correctness, but feel more free from prejudice on the subject, from knowing that the "gentlemen of wealth and standing" in this country make it their business to sneer at every improvement, whether in morals or the arts, as foolish or fanatical.

We were passing the Thomsonian establishment of Dr. John R. Patten, in this town, the other day, and accepted an invitation to call and examine the premises. Every thing within appeared neat and comfortable; while the garden, grove, fields and every thing around, wore an air of elegance and taste.

We did not rest satisfied with these outward appearances, but gratified our further curiosity, by staying to witness the operations of a course of medicine, about to be administered to a sick man present. He had been a long time troubled with dyspepsia, and had an extremely foul stomach. He was first steamed, standing or sitting, in a common shower box, the steam being admitted at the bottom, till the thermometer ranged from 90 to 110 degrees. There is a window hole to this box, from which the patient can hold his head out and breath fresh air if he choose. This process of steaming is said to be an agreeable one, lasting ten or fifteen minutes, after which the patient is rubbed with a dry cloth, put into a bed, and an emetic, consisting of a preparation of *lobelia*, administered. This medicine operated powerfully three or four times in the course of an hour and a half, in which a large quantity, apparently two or three quarts of black, thick, ropy, nauseous substance was ejected from the stomach, the very sight of which was appalling. The patient was then taken from the bed to the steam box, and after being steamed as before, was showered with a gallon of cool water (poured on as usual from above,) rubbed, dressed, and sent about his business, in a very comfortable state of health and feeling, as we were informed.

This preparation of *lobelia* is one of the Thomsonian *arcana*. It is said to be perfectly harmless, operating against the disorder, and not against the health or constitution; that is, it will operate until the foul matter in the stomach is entirely removed, and no longer. When the stomach is relieved by the removal, the medicine, till then active, ceases to sicken, or to operate at all, however large may have

been the dose taken. As a large proportion of the disorders "which flesh is heir to" proceeds from a foul stomach, we can easily conceive it possible for the same treatment to be applied in a great variety of cases with nearly the same effect. As the prime object in all these cases is to clear the stomach, Dr. Patten's mode of treatment seems to be not only efficacious and safe, but divested of much of the pain, sickness, delay and inconvenience, attending the common medical process.

No person can entertain a less favorable opinion of *Indian taught doctors*, or seventh son, or root and airb doctors, generally, than we do; but the Thomsonian system we consider entirely different, and entitled to at least a serious and candid examination from learned and regular bred physicians. It has stemmed the tide of popular prejudice too long and too successfully to be driven away by ridicule and neglect. The old stories about patients being "steamed almost to death," which used to fill us and other people with horror, we have every reason to believe were mere bug-bear stories, set on foot by interested persons, to frighten the uninformed. In the three years' residence of Dr. Patten in this town, he informs us he has had between twelve and fifteen hundred patients, among all of whom he has lost only two, to whom he ever gave any encouragement of recovery. None of these patients have to our knowledge ever complained of unreasonable charges, but many of them speak highly of the Thomsonian system. It was not our object in writing this article to defend this system, but to state some facts and suggestions concerning it.

It would seem by the following, which appeared in the Record the following week, that the remarks of the editor of the Record produced some consternation among the "regularly bred" gentry:—

We admit without scruple the following communication, (says the editor of the Record,) though we do not consider it as invalidating any of the facts in the case we mentioned two weeks since, relating to the Thomsonian practice.

THOMPSONIAN PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

Mr. Editor—In your paper of the 19th ult. you call public attention to the above subject and recommend it to the serious and candid examination of "regular bred physicians." As if such physicians had all totally neglected to acquaint themselves with a practice which assumes so much. This is not the case, they are not ignorant of its pretensions, but knowing most of them to have no solid basis in science, they leave them as they do all other modes of quackery to such as it may concern to dispose of as they see fit. The cardinal error in Thompsonism in regard to its science, is in ascribing such transcendent virtues to the *Lobelia*. Its great error in *morality*, is in securing those absurd assumptions by a *patent*, and palming them off on the afflicted as *improvements* in the heal-

ing art. Is it possible that a material substance is found applicable to the cure of all the complicated diseases of the human frame—so powerful as to eradicate the most inveterate disease, yet so perfectly “harmless” as not to injure the weakest infant—so kind and so discriminating as to affect only diseased action and dislodge noxious matter and then leave the body unhurt, no matter when or how administered? What a wonderful substitute this for science, skill and wisdom! To this absurd conclusion does Thomsonism tend, that all science and all virtue in the healing art reside in Indian tobacco and are secured to Dr. Samuel Thompson by a patent, under the great seal of the United States. And all the good citizens of this fair republic ought instantly to renounce the use of all other means of cure, and buy a *right* of him to be vomited by Lobelia, take a vapor bath, and a little cayenne pepper, and go home as from the pool of Bethesda cured of whatever maladies they possess.

Towards the occasional use of a vapor bath, an emetic of Lobelia, or a little cayenne the writer of this comment has no prejudice or hostility. Nor would he point censure towards an individual who chooses to practice medicine wholly by steam, and Lobelia, or against those who choose to employ such; that is an affair exclusively between the parties immediately concerned. It is against absurd *systems* founded in ignorance and error, and maintained by imposition he would object, wherever they originated. That Thomsonism has partially succeeded should give it no special immunity. Have not a vast number of errors and abuses obtained wide dominion ever since creation? Why then should Thompsonism be shielded from the just censure of the Record, which professes to abhor all other quackery and monopolies?

C.

To the above, the following reply was made in the Record of the next week—[Aug. 9.]

THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM.

Mr. Editor—Sir: I was much pleased to notice in your paper of the 18th ult. the very fair and gentlemanly compliment, which you paid to our worthy fellow citizen, Dr. John R. PATTEN. What you there expressed, will be responded to, by many who have been *experimentally* acquainted with Dr. P.’s skill as a physician, and his character as a gentleman. It was a tribute of respect well merited, and I think I speak the sentiments of many, when I tell you that the frankness and independence your remarks manifested, are worthy of the highest admiration. It is really the harbinger of good, to see the conductors of our most respectable public prints, thus daring to cast off the shackles of pride, prejudice and self-interest, and acknowledge those things to be good and useful, which are demonstrated to be so—although, perhaps, opposed by “the gentlemen of wealth and standing” in community.

I do not mean, Mr. Editor, in my remarks, to be understood as supposing you to have made

an avowal of Thomsonism. I suppose no such thing. I do not know but you may be opposed to the *system*;—but whether you are or not, your suggestions were good, and such as would, in my opinion, meet the views of all liberal-minded men. And I am not a little astonished that your correspondent ‘C.’ should ask, “Why then should Thomsonism be shielded from the just censures of the Record?” Why, I would ask, *should* the Record *censure* Thomsonism?—what can it allege against the system? But you had been speaking only of an *individual*. You do not, I conceive, take a stand either for or against Thomsonism; and why, then, should you be called upon for your “just censure?”—You do not, sir, as I understand you, profess to understand the merits of Thomsonism—how, then, can you be supposed to know its demerits? Probably by intuition! Can it be possible that you are expected to censure Thomsonism, *in toto*, without knowing why or wherefore, merely because some of the “regular bred” gentry are opposed to it? It is a necessary conclusion, that this wholesale denunciation is what ‘C.’ desires.

It has, indeed come to a singular climax in affairs, if an editor is to be taken to do, and called upon for his “just censures,” merely because he has *presumed* to notice the enterprise and industry of a worthy fellow citizen. As well might I call for the “just censures” of the Record upon the systems of Sydenham and Paracelsus, which have so long caused the human family to “pour out their hearts’ pure blood in profuse libation, and quaff the deadliest poisons as a beverage.” But I need not undertake to defend one so able to fight his own battles as the editor of the Record; and will conclude with briefly noticing one or two of ‘C.’s remarks touching Thomsonism.

He says he would not point censure towards an *individual* who chooses to practice medicine *wholly* by steam and lobelia, or against those who employ such; but “it is against absurd *systems*, founded in ignorance and error, and maintained by imposition, he would object, wherever they originated.” *And so would I object to THEM*—but I challenge him, or any one else, to prove, that *Thomsonism* comes under that class. “By their fruits ye shall know them,” is the best maxim by which our minds can be governed, in forming estimates either of moral character, or of systems; and this is the only criterion by which the *old* and *Thomsonian* systems should be judged. By this criterion let them be judged; and if weighed in this balance, Thomsonism will not be found wanting.

‘C.’ says—“The cardinal error of Thomsonism in regard to its science, is in ascribing such transcendent virtues to the lobelia.” Again—“Is it possible that a material substance is found applicable to the cure of all the complicated diseases of the human frame—so powerful as to eradicate the most inveterate disease, yet so perfectly ‘harmless’ as not to injure the weakest infant,” &c.

Now 'C.' professes to be acquainted with the "pretensions" of Thomsonism,—I profess also to be somewhat acquainted with them,—and I challenge him to show the authority for the remark, "that a material substance is found (and that material substance *lobelia*) applicable to the cure of all the complicated diseases of the human frame," without the use of any other remedies! I am satisfied that no Thomsonian ever asserted any such doctrine; it savors too much of the "learned quackery" which they so justly despise. But, even if it could be shown, that some advocate for Thomsonism had advanced such a sentiment, still it would not in the least affect the *system* itself. *Lobelia*, it is true, is one of the most valuable medicines in the materia medica of Thomson; but it is not the *only* remedy used, nor is there, in general, greater dependence placed upon that article, in the cure of disease, than upon many others. 'C.' seems to think that Thomsonians look upon *lobelia* in the same light that the regular faculty view *calomel*; but he is mistaken; *lobelia* is not "the grand specific"—"the goliath" of Thomsonism, as *calomel* is of the mineral practice. I would gladly give a description of the properties of *lobelia*; but I should encroach too much upon the columns of the Record.

'C.' is reduced to the miserable shift of having to single out *lobelia*, as the *only* article upon which he can pass his "censures." And even upon that, he dare not risk his reputation, by making any *direct* charge. Now, how vastly different is it with the Thomsonian. If he wishes to pass his "just censures" upon the *old* system, he has only to go to the writings of Hooper, Barton, Rush, and others of the most eminent of the regular faculty, and he finds the words at hand. All he has to do is to select such passages as contain the *precise degree* of "censure" he may wish, for the time being, to inflict. For example:—"All your most valuable remedies are ACTIVE POISONS," &c. &c.—These extracts I could multiply to almost any extent; but enough for the present. I would just remind 'C.' that *lobelia* alone does not constitute Thomsonism; and if he knows anything against the *system*, I should be glad to hear it.

With respect to the "*harmlessness*" of *lobelia*, it *can* be administered to the infant of a day old and to the hoary headed adult, with perfect safety, and will benefit; and that is more than can be said of the articles used by the regular faculty. If 'C.' thinks fit to gain-say this remark, I hereby offer, on certain conditions, to take *lobelia*, *four to one*, against any quantity of antimony or tartar emetic, he may be willing to take; and will repeat the dose as often as he desires.

A THOMSONIAN.

The above occupies almost too much room to be inserted in the Manual; but it will be read with interest. We think it due to the independence of the editor of the Record, that we should insert the articles entire, that Thomsonians may see that some portions, at least, of

the public press, are throwing off the shackles of prejudice. We will merely add, that to the communication of "A Thomsonian," the regulars did not hazard a reply.—[ED. MAN.]

CAYENNE.—Be cautious of whom you purchase your cayenne. It is often mixed with tumeric, logwood, &c. These impositions are of frequent occurrence, and require to be guarded against. Grocers and druggists seldom have the pure cayenne. They are either unacquainted with the article and not to be depended upon, or they wilfully deceive the public. The only safe way is to avoid them, (especially when you wish the article for medical purposes) and purchase only of those in whose honesty you can confide. The druggist will sell you powdered cayenne at a less price than in the pots, although he has to pay heavy fees at the drug mill for grinding. This is a proof that it is mixed with other articles. Cayenne, such as is sometimes vended by grocers and druggists, is of an extremely poisonous nature, and should be avoided as you would arsenic. We are not romancing when we say, that some of the wholesale druggists in this city, are in the habit of receiving orders from storekeepers and others, for "cayenne mixed," as it is termed, which is furnished at a low rate, and then palmed upon the public as a genuine article. This is the true secret of one man selling *cheaper* than his neighbors. Do not be deceived by such pretensions. *Cheap* medicines are scarcely worth the buying. They would be dear, perhaps, as a gift. An ounce of *genuine* medicine is worth a cartload of the *trash* which is sometimes vended by cheats and imposters. Imposition will be practised in proportion as the demand for the Thomsonian remedies increases; hence the greatest vigilance will be necessary. We put forth these cautions with the hope that they may not be altogether disregarded.—[Botanic Sentinel.]

☞ An easy test of the qualities of cayenne, can be found in the following directions: Place a small quantity on a shovel, or something which will answer the same purpose, and hold it over the fire until the cayenne is completely burned to ashes. If a black sediment remains, the article is adulterated and spurious; but if it burns to a white ashes, it is probably genuine.—[ED. MAN.]

DRINKING THE FULL MOON.—The Hindoos have a singular remedy for some diseases, as nervous affections, and palpitations of the heart, viz: that of *drinking the full moon at a draught*! The way it is managed is this: a silver basin being filled with water, is held in such a situation that the full moon may be reflected in it; the person to be benefitted by this draught is required to look steadfastly at the moon in the basin, then shut his eyes and quaff the liquid at one draught.

CHART OF HEALTH.

I.
VITALITY.

II.

THE FUNCTIONS CONTROLLED BY IT.

ASSIMILATION AND EXCRETION.

1 { Digestion, Circulation, Respiration, Nutrition.....	Absorption, Circulation, Exhalation, Secretion.....
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- 1st.—Medicines to arouse the vitality of the system.
 2d.—Medicines to destroy the cankerous coating.
 3d.—Medicines to correct the bile.
 4th.—Medicines to dislodge the contents of the stomach.

- 1.—HOT.
 2.—ROUGH.
 3.—BITTER.
 4.—EMETICS.

OBSERVATIONS.

1. All that physicians have to depend on, in their efforts to cure, are Vitality and the functions of Assimilation and Excretion, which are controlled by it.

2. Medicines therefore, must be in harmony with this principle and these functions.

3. Some medicines, like calomel and nitre, aid *pro tempore*, these functions, but are not in unison with the vital principle; and some medicines are in unison with the vital principle, but have no power to lift off obstructions from before Assimilation and Excretion. Cayenne (e. g.) harmonizes with life, but cannot remove or heal that cankerous coating, which in disease is so constantly observed on the tongue. &c. &c. Something, addressing itself to this part of disease in particular, and which at the same time shall not oppose itself to the principle of vitality, by which the tissues of the living system are endowed with feeling and motion,—is what is needed—is the desideratum.

Again—this medicine, which removes the coating that so effectually seals up the mouth of the nutritive vessels, and covers the glands by which the juices of the stomach and month are supplied, may not have the power of correcting the digestion, or removing the contents of the stomach. Other medicines, therefore, bitters to correct, and emetics to dislodge, the contents of the stomach, are wanting.

Medicines may be found adapted to these principles in the "New Guide to Health." Dr. Thomson enumerates, in his Practice, about sixteen different articles of the class of Stimulants—such medicines as are calculated to arouse the vital system, and are congenial to the principle of life. Also, about eleven different articles calculated to destroy the cankerous coating, and nearly or quite as many tonics or bitters to correct the bile—including Emetics, &c. &c.

But [*scientific*] physicians, by the use of *minerals*, endeavor to make us *well* when we are *sick*, by substances that would make us *sick* when we are *well*.

[The above is the substance of a communica-

tion which we received from an intelligent friend several years since, and which has never been before the public. It contains a brief sketch of the principles which should govern the successful practitioner of the healing art—and illustrates with great simplicity the three great principles laid down by Dr. Thomson for the cure of disease.—Ed. Botanic Luminary.]

"THE MOTHER'S CORDIAL."—[Dr. Sweet's recipe, in the Thomsonian Vindicator.]—Take one pound of partridge-berry vine, dried; one fourth of a pound of high cranberry or cramp bark; and one fourth of a pound of unicorn root. Boil in two gallons of water down to one gallon. Strain, and add one pound and a half of sugar, and three pints of brandy.

The effects of this cordial are greatly to diminish both in duration and intensity the sufferings of parturition or *child-birth*. It should be used daily for two weeks immediately preceding confinement, as a preparatory.

Dose, from a half to one wine-glassful two or three times a day, and one at bed-time, in a little hot water. The dose may be increased to a gill if necessary to alleviate cramps and pain.

PHYSIOLOGY.—The importance of studying this branch of medical science must be obvious to every reflecting mind. We are not very strenuous for book knowledge on this subject, but the practitioner should have a knowledge of it in some way—either from books or from a real knowledge of facts.

No physician, however ignorant he may have been when he commenced his practice, can long pursue his profession without obtaining a knowledge of physiology sufficient for all important practical purposes. But it is not to be supposed that every man is naturally a physiologist, as Dr. Thomson was. Hence the necessity of acquiring a knowledge of this science.—[Botanic Advocate.]

TO PERFUME LINEN.—Rose leaves dried in the shade, cloves beat to powder, and mace scraped; mix them together, and put the composition into little bags.—[N. Y. Times.]

We know of a better way. Boil the linen in soft water—rub it well in a tub of hot water—apply a liberal quantity of soap—rinse it—dry it—starch it, and press it with a hot iron. If this process is gone through with faithfully, the linen will have the sweetness of the best of all perfumes, viz: CLEANLINESS.

A warm bath and scrubbing brush are excellent perfumes for the body. If gentlemen and ladies would use them more, and lavender, musk, cologne, &c. less, they would smell sweeter than they now do, many of them. This is rather plain talking, but it is the *naked* truth.—[M. Post.]

"A LITTLE DARLING."—A child of a farmer near Shrewsbury, one year old, measures 32 inches round the chest, and 11 round the calf.

THE MANUAL.



"So be it that truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—*Milton.*

BOSTON, OCTOBER 15, 1837.

THOMSONIAN CONVENTION.

The friends of THOMSONISM are hereby notified, that a Convention will be holden at Providence, R. I., on the second Monday in November, to take into consideration such measures as may be proposed for the advancement of the cause; and, also, as a primary object, to consider and act upon the propositions contained in the Address of the Editor of the "Thomsonian Manual," published in the July number of that journal; and such other matters as may come before them.

Agents, and others interested, (particularly those in the N. E. States,) are requested to attend.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, July 20, 1837.

VALEDICTORY.

The present number of the Manual completes the second volume, and with it closes the connection of the subscriber, as editor; who will, probably, ere this farewell article shall be seen by the numerous readers of the Manual, be in a far distant portion of our country.

Since his connection with the Manual, its subscription list has much increased, and he has received many flattering testimonials, approving of his course, for which he feels highly gratified. It cannot be presumed, however, that every reader has been pleased with all of his articles; but having ever been governed by the best of motives, and free from all selfish considerations, he trusts that any indiscreet articles, or injudicious remarks, which may have appeared, will be ascribed more to his want of experience, than to a predisposition to offend.

The 13th of October completed one year since the afflictive bereavement, which made him determine to devote a portion of his time to the advancement of Thomsonism. He has thus far redeemed his pledge, as fully as he has been able; nor will his advocacy of the cause end here; but wherever he shall go, he will continue, to the extent of his opportunities, to support and advance the system.

His advantages for an extended observation of the beneficial effects of Thomsonism, have been very great, and he will again state, what he has many times stated before, that it is his firm belief that Thomsonism will cure in all curable cases, when properly, faithfully and perseveringly applied; and where that fails, all other systems will also fail. Another fact, capable of the fullest demonstration, is, that Thomsonism will cure nine-tenths of the cases, which are incurable by the regular faculty. The system is worthy of the highest confidence, on account of the safety and efficacy of the remedies; and of patronage, on account of its cheapness. In these two very essential points, as well as almost all others, it is directly the opposite of the mineral system.

He trusts that the Manual will continue to merit and receive an increasing portion of public patronage. His brother, who succeeds him, is, and has long been, a firm Thomsonian, and will, doubtless, much better perform the labors of editing, than they have been done for the last eight or ten months, as he will devote more time to the subject than the subscriber has been able to do. The Manual is now on a friendly footing with all of the principal Thomsonian periodicals, and it is sincerely to be hoped that it may remain so. At the present time, also, there is a greater number of regular contributors to the pages of the Manual, than at any previous moment, which must necessarily enhance the value of the coming volume.

With the united exertions of the press and the friends of humanity, our cause must prosper; and the reviled and persecuted THOMSON will receive the respect, the gratitude, and veneration, which he deserves, for the inestimable blessings which he has conferred upon the human family. An enlightened community will not *always* be insensible to his high deserts. They may be apparently so, for a season; but the time *will come*,—and it is fast hastening,—when the community will arise in its might, and with one voice call down blessings upon the head of this great benefactor of the human race! This voice may now be heard from our Canadian to our Texan border—and from the Atlantic on the East, to the rocky mountains of the West!—and ere long, the mingled sounds of blessing and of joy, from the suffering millions of Europe, will be wafted upon every breeze!

To those Thomsonians with whom I have had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance, I would say—Stick to your system in its purity and simplicity; and do not suffer yourselves to be deceived by the *pretended* friends of Thomsonism—who, for filthy lucre's sake, are filling the country with spurious medicines. This caution is not an idle one; often has it been reiterated through the Manual; of solemn import is it; “he that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” Let those who have the temerity to trifle with human life, by the exhibition of articles of the description referred to, take heed to my friendly admonition—which emanates from nought but humane and disinterested motives—and do so no more forever. A sense of duty has impelled me many times to hold up to public view, what I considered the mal-practices of certain individuals; there are still others, who go “unwhipt of justice”; and I cannot but hope that the coming Convention will be the means of inducing them to err no longer, when all recollections of the past shall be buried in oblivion.

With the hope that all the members of the Thomsonian family will feel the great and solemn responsibility which rests upon them, I now bid my friends and the readers of the Manual farewell, with the assurance that, at some future period, if my life is spared, they will again hear from me.

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN.

ONE WORD OF ADVICE.—There are many Thomsonians, who are so very sanguine, that they never hesitate to say that Thomsonism will certainly cure, even in the most desperate of the given-over cases of the faculty. One instance of failure, after such positive assurances, injures the cause more than a private individual can advance it. We have known of several such instances, and would gently caution our zealous friends to be more careful, and always to qualify their advice, or commendation of the system, by saying that *they* should have more confidence in the Botanic remedies than they should in the mineral, or in some such way. But on no account to promise a positive cure, especially in a desperate case.

ECONOMY.—A French artilleryman at Antwerp was obliged to undergo amputation. Seeing the attendants carrying off his leg, he called out, “I say, comrade, give me back my shoe; I had only one pair—that will make me two.”

REASONS WHY IT IS BETTER TO VISIT WARM CLIMATES IN THE FALL, RATHER THAN IN THE SPRING.—It is a commonly received opinion, that persons accustomed to cold climates, should go to warm ones in the fall, in preference to going in the spring,—as they will be less likely to suffer in their bodily health. This opinion is correct; but why it is so, is not generally understood, any more than the reasons why consumptive people die in the spring and fall oftener than at other seasons of the year. [See article on page 123.] The true exposition of the matter, we conceive to be this: When persons go to warm climates in the spring, they meet—so to speak—the approach of warm weather; their bodies have, during the preceding winter, lost a considerable portion of their heat, and by thus coming suddenly in contact with very warm weather, the change is so great that they are at once overpowered—their strength is prostrated, and they fall an easy prey to any prevailing epidemic; and even where there is no prevailing epidemic, the humors and seeds of disease in the system, are sufficient, owing to the great prostration of strength, to destroy life. On the other hand, those who go in the fall, have become prepared, by the preceding warm weather, to still continue in it—their bodies have absorbed so much heat, that they can bear even warmer weather with perfect convenience—and, in fact, they merely follow the warm weather, and continue in it, in preference to remaining to buffet the storms, and endure the cold, of a northern winter, which induces coughs, colds, influenzas, consumptions, and many other complaints, which are scarcely known in warm countries.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The communications of Drs. Jenkins and Scammell we have thought proper to reserve till our next number. This we do, because we shall be compelled to divide them, and do not wish to have a portion in one volume, and the remainder in another. The arrangement we propose, will be acceptable, doubtless, to most of our readers, and particularly so to our new subscribers. We are much obliged to our friends for their favors, and trust this explanation will prove satisfactory to them. [The present editor will prepare the articles for the press, prior to his departure, according to promise.]

Hippocrates lived about 460 years B. C.

N. S. MAGOON.

In our last number, we stated that the above named individual had taken down the obnoxious "sign," which has occasioned so much controversy, and had written a letter to Dr. Thomson, dated July 25th. This letter we at first purposed to publish, in justice to Mr. Magoon. But he having suggested the propriety of leaving all controversies to be settled by the Convention, to be held at Providence for the purpose, we readily coincided in opinion with him, in regard to the policy of that measure, and gladly exclude from the Manual all further controversies on this unpleasant theme. The room, which a refutation of the charges that have at various times been preferred against Mr. Magoon, would occupy, can be much better filled with other matter; and a statement from a committee, or from the Convention, as a body, would answer every purpose that could be gained by any such controversy. However, having admitted the charges into the Manual, we feel bound in honor to insert a refutation, if it shall be desired. One thing we have determined upon, which is, to admit nothing more into the Manual, in relation to Mr. Magoon; at least, not until after the adjournment of the Convention, unless by Dr. Thomson's special order.

There are one or two points adverted to in the letter of Mr. Magoon, which we feel justified in speaking of at this time, although the main charges against his general character, we leave for another tribunal. We are persuaded that private character never should have been touched; and we shall now allude only to such parts of the latter as have a bearing upon the botanic practice of medicine.

In reply to the implied charge, that he was the individual alluded to in Mr. Henshaw's testimony, as having been deceived in an article which he supposed to be gum myrrh, Mr. Magoon says: "I was not that person, for I never purchased any thing of Mr. Henshaw, purporting to be gum myrrh, in my life."

Again, in reference to his keeping impure medicines, Mr. M. says: "When I dissolved with [Hosea] Winchester, I was obliged to take half of the stock which he bought, and there were many articles which I never use, nor offer to sell, only to the mineral druggists. I have endeavored to procure the best articles, and have administered them according to the directions in your Guide to Health. As to electrici-

ty, I had an old machine, when I left Winchester, which I did not understand; nor did I pretend to use it; but sold it to C. W. Martin. I have not administered physic so abundantly as you assert; having witnessed the ill-success of others, in this respect, I have acted differently."

The whole difficulty, after all, with Mr. Magoon, seems to have had its origin in the misrepresentations, with which his ears had been filled, respecting Dr. Thomson and the "bond," which he requires of his agents. We have several times explained the nature of that instrument; but have reason to believe that there are many who still look upon it as the hydra which some interested persons have attempted to make it appear to be. There are others, however, who have received a deserved rebuke at our hands, who cannot plead ignorance of its nature as an excuse. One, in particular, who was once a minister, or prepared, at least, for the ministerial office—who is known to have said, that *if he found it necessary to sign the bond, he should only do so for the benefits he should derive from so doing, and with the design of breaking it.* But we shall not, at present, name those persons who have violated their pledges; nor shall we even enumerate those who, well knowing what the bond is, still, without the least shadow of a reason, oppose it.

That we do not mistake, when we say that the difficulty with Mr. Magoon originated in a misunderstanding of the requirements of the "bond," we extract the following admission from the letter before us: "You intimate that I desire to be an agent. I have said, that had I been as well acquainted with your obligations at first, as I now am, I should have taken an agency, and signed the bond. But, through the misrepresentations of others, I was induced to take a course, which I have since, in some respects, very much regretted."

We feel confident in again stating, that Mr. Magoon now uses genuine medicines; and we hope soon to have the pleasure of making the same statement of others. None can be more ready than we are, to correct misrepresentations, nor would we willingly allow ourself to be deceived by any speciously told tale. If we have erred, it has been owing to our great anxiety for the public good, and the advance of the system; for we have not had a cent's worth of pecuniary interest pending upon Thomsonism, since our connection with the Manual.

E. LARABEE, OF BALTIMORE.

☞ We wish to direct attention to the notice signed by Dr. Thomson, cautioning the public against purchasing the articles offered under his name and vended by *E. Larabee*, of Baltimore, Md. Many complaints have reached us, of the extensive sale of spurious and adulterated medicines, at the South and West, and we have reason to believe that they are compounded by the said *Larabee*. Be this as it may, however, the said *Larabee* has no authority whatever, from Dr. Thomson, neither does Dr. Thomson furnish him with any medicines; but he receives his authority from a certain body, who have *assumed* the prerogative which belonged alone to Dr. Thomson. We are glad that Dr. Thomson has consented to call attention to the subject, and if the public are longer deceived and imposed upon by the sale of spurious medicines, he at least has done all that was in his power, in cautioning them against their use—therefore, let what injury result that may, from their further sale, Dr. Thomson is exonerated from all blame. We say above, that *Larabee* receives his authority from a certain body who have “assumed the prerogative which belonged alone to Dr. Thomson,” because the Dr. has never delegated to that “body” the right of appointing agents for him. Nor will he countenance any one who may be supported or protected by any individual or “body,” in opposition to his wish or desire—especially where he has objections of the most serious nature, against their appointment.

DR. MORGRIDGE.—In our next, we shall endeavor to give a synopsis of the examination of Dr. John Morgridge, of New-Bedford, who was recently arraigned for *manslaughter*, in consequence of losing one of his patients—(Mrs. Howland.) We have now only room to state, that he was discharged without having an opportunity to make a defence, as nothing could be found against him sufficient to ground a distinct charge upon. As usual, the *faculty* were very busy in getting up false reports,—and in fact it was from their wilful misrepresentations alone, that any dissatisfaction or trouble occurred.

ORIGIN OF THE WORD NIGHTMARE.—The nightmare is said to have derived its name from *Mara*, an evil spirit of the Scandinavians, which according to the Runie theology, seized men in their sleep, and deprived them of the power of volition.

☞ NOTICE.—We wish that all persons who are indebted to Dr. Thomson for the 1st or 2d volumes of the Manual, or who wish to transmit their subscriptions for the 3d volume, to direct their letters or communications *post paid* to *Dr. Samuel Thomson, Boston*.

The Manual will be issued, as formerly, on the 15th of each month, from 35 Washington street, Boston; and we trust that our friends will make such exertions to increase our number of subscribers, that we may feel encouraged to renewed exertions to improve and enhance the value of the work.

In addition to what was promised in the prospectus published in our last, it has been thought expedient to enlarge the pages of the Manual, so as to afford much more matter than any other periodical of the kind in the United States, and for a much less price. We cannot but anticipate an increased patronage to reward our endeavors to please.—[ED. MAN.]

☞ TO SUBSCRIBERS.—We wish those who receive the Manual after the commencement of the third volume, to return the numbers if they do not wish longer to take it; those who do not return their numbers will be considered as subscribers for the volume.

BROWN'S BIOGRAPHY.—We have a copy of J. A. Brown's Family Guide to Health, with *his* biography; and a curious concern it is. Having our nerves overcome with the perusal, we shall, when they get quieted, amuse our readers with specimens of it. We notice he has left out one of his titles, however, viz.—J. A. Brown, *Marketer*, T. B. P., &c. &c.

☞ The attention of the reader is requested to the advertisement of *Godfrey Meyer & Co.*, on the cover of this number.

TALL FACTS.—A paragraph went the rounds not long since stating on the authority of a medical work, that coffee checks the growth of the human frame. A correspondent of the N. Y. Star gives an instance of a family of four who have used it copiously from early youth and who are of the following dimensions. The tallest of the brothers is by a just admeasurement without any auxiliary aid six feet six inches, the next is six feet five inches, and the oldest is a dwarfish brother, only six feet two inches. To these Lilliputian brethren may be added a growing sister, *yet a snippet*, who is, as near as could be judged when standing near her shortest brother, about five feet eleven inches! quite a stunted race truly!

THE CONVENTION.

The Southern Botanic Journal, in copying our Address and call for a Convention, makes, among others, the following suggestions and remarks, as general propositions to be acted upon by the Convention.

1. No person should be allowed to, or countenanced in the, practice, by Thomsonians, except such as are prepared for it.

Quackery among the Thomsonians has loaded the system with reproach, brought it into disrepute, and furnished grounds to our opponents to retard the advancement of the cause.

2. No persons should sell medicines except those who are well acquainted with the genuine articles.

3. To prevent the sale of spurious medicine, let a committee be appointed by each society to inspect the medicines sold by the agent or agents in their immediate neighborhood; and if any one is found to sell inferior articles, let him be exposed through the public prints. The committee might inspect the medicines of their agents as often as might be thought proper by the Convention.

With regard to the frauds practised upon Dr. Thomson, (if there be any,) we are not acquainted with the facts, and therefore can say nothing. We think the Doctor is entitled to the full benefit of his discoveries. If he thinks that his right extends further than others are willing to allow, they must settle it among themselves:—for our own part, we are not only willing that Dr. Thomson should have his just dues, but we are scrupulously careful of them in every thing. We think also that the Convention should take into consideration the propriety of a school for the purpose of educating young men for the practice. The time is not yet come for every man to be his own physician, for even when they can they will not do it. There are many persons now who practice in their families only because they cannot procure a practitioner who will administer Thomsonian remedies. As well might you endeavor to make every man his own merchant, his own mechanic, his own lawyer, or his own preacher. That every man should understand the Thomsonian system is an object greatly to be wished; its simplicity renders it calculated for the most common capacities. But the practice requires thought and a good share of common sense, and even some experience. That the work of Dr. Thomson should be in every family, is also a fact that no one acquainted with it will gainsay; because it cannot be foretold at what moment any one may be called upon to use the practice, in cases of emergency, that perhaps would prove fatal if help was delayed until medical advice could be procured. But if we even could hope that every man would be his own physician, they certainly are not so now; and it is hard to give such a jar to the current of fashion as to change its course at once,

NEW ENGLAND CONVENTION,

And Eastern District Convention of New York.

DELEGATES FROM NEW HAVEN COUNTY, CT.

To the Editor of the Thomsonian Manual.

Sir:—At a regular quarterly meeting of the "New Haven County Thomsonian Medical Society," held at New Haven, on Monday the 11th of September, 1837, it was

Resolved, That Drs. J. J. Sperry, B. W. Sperry, and S. Richardson, be, and they are hereby appointed Delegates from this Society to the Thomsonian Convention, to assemble at Providence, R.I., on the second Monday of November next, as called by Dr. Samuel Thomson, in the "Thomsonian Manual" of the 15th of August last.

Resolved, That Dr. B. W. Sperry and James Sizer, be, and they are hereby appointed Delegates from this Society, to the Eastern District Convention of the State of New York, to convene at Poughkeepsie, on the first Monday of October next, as called by the Thomsonian Society of that State.

JOHN M. BARLOW, *President*.

SHARON Y. BEACH, } *Secretaries*.
STERNE HOTCHKISS, }

New Haven, Sept. 19, 1837.

In reply to B. W. Sperry's private note, we state, that there *will be* a person at the Providence Convention with "Family Rights" and "Blank Agencies;" and it is not probable that much business will be done on the first day's session—probably nothing more than to organize and appoint committees,—for this purpose, however, it is desirable to have as full an attendance as possible. There will probably be lectures given; and it is Dr. Thomson's desire that as many would be prepared to lecture as feel disposed. At present, no persons in particular are prepared, or preparing—to our knowledge. Dr. Thomson will be present unless something unforeseen occurs to prevent.—[ED. MAN.]

THE "BOTANIC SENTINEL."—The first and second numbers of the third volume of the *Sentinel*, have come to us in a new and improved form, and filled, as usual, with interesting matter. We shall continue to enrich our Manual from its pages, but would recommend the *Sentinel* to the patronage of our friends.

THE CONTRAST.—The kingdom of Greece, with a million and a half of souls, has only 85 licensed practitioners of physic. The town of Chicago, on Lake Michigan, with 8000 inhabitants, has no less than *forty* of the medical fraternity.

SUMNER STEBBINS, M. D.—We think that we have sufficiently noticed the billingsgate pamphlet of this individual, and our readers will, doubtless, readily agree that we have said enough respecting the author. We regret to learn that Dr. Stebbins's medical brethren hold him so little in respect. We had hoped they would acknowledge him their champion. But it seems they will not do it. *Immortality* was doubtless Dr. Stebbins's object, in writing his pamphlet; and we have done all in our power to aid him in the accomplishment of his design. To what we have already said, we add the following, from the Botanic Sentinel, which will serve to explain our reasons for not noticing the pamphlet further:—

A QUERY.—“Mr. Editor: Who is Dr. Stebbins, the author of the pamphlet in refutation of the Thomsonian system?”

The above is an extract of a letter from a correspondent in Boston. In reply, we can only say, that we have but little knowledge of the individual in question. We have understood, however, that about three years ago, he was a journeyman tailor, industrious in his habits, and earning a comfortable assistance; but he fancied he had “*a soul above buttons*,” and concluded to adopt, what he conceived to be, a more congenial profession. Accordingly, he attended two or three courses of medical lectures with a view to graduate, but he found, upon experiment, that he was altogether incompetent, and gave up the undertaking in despair. The numbskull, notwithstanding, announced himself as an M. D., and is palming himself off upon the community as a graduate. Like the jackdaw, he is fond of shining in borrowed plumes; and if the dunce can derive any gratification from his stolen honors, we hope he may live long to enjoy them.

The pamphlet, of which this Mr. Stebbins proclaims himself the author, is altogether unworthy of notice. It is vulgar and abusive, and shows, upon every page, to have been the production of a mind stung with disappointment, and incapable of a single high or generous sentiment. The doctors themselves, many of them, are ashamed of it, and say, if it is necessary to have a champion for their cause, that they will rest their defence in other hands than a strolling quack.

REINSERTION OF HUMAN TEETH.—Dentists have been warned of late, by the pernicious effects produced by the use of teeth taken from the dead, to abandon a practice now pretty extensively followed in the large cities. A dreadful and fatal case of disease was in one instance, in this way communicated to a lady, whose jaws and face presented a horrible spectacle before she found relief in death. This case occurred in Boston: the disease was the venereal—or mercurial, or both.

To the Editor of the Manual:

SIR—The following remarkable cures performed by the active and skillful proprietor of the Mount Pleasant (Dover) Infirmary, New Hampshire, Doct. A. Watkins, should be registered in your valuable journal, and spread abroad throughout the community, as far as steam, wind and stage, can carry them. Such record is especially due to Doctor Samuel Thomson, who has introduced a system of practice in medicine, the intrinsic value of which no form of words can adequately describe. It is equally a tribute of respect which should be shown towards the indefatigable and gentlemanly superintendent of the establishment to which we have adverted; the success of whose practice in Dover is not only proverbial in that town, but also throughout the State itself;—and patients are therefore flocking to his Infirmary from all quarters of that region. He has had a threefold duty to discharge during his residence there—first, in putting down the faculty, and those who administer botanic medicines one day, and mineral ones the next; secondly, in exposing the duplicity and malpractices of the unauthorized agents of Dr. Thomson; and thirdly, in curing the sick. This duty, arduous and trying as it is, he has discharged with fidelity to his patron and himself; and his prosperity has in consequence been commensurate to his labors in the cause of philanthropy. We would state that these certificates are taken at random among a very voluminous mass that he has collected and is still collecting, of the truly astonishing cures that he has effected; and prove beyond a reasonable doubt, that the Botanic system of medical practice is the best with which mankind have ever been acquainted. We understand that he intends publishing the whole in a pamphlet form, for the information of the people; and, as they contain much matter of intense interest and service, we wait with impatience to peruse them. The facts set forth in the subjoined testimony, you may rely on as correct. They are stated by the individuals who sign them, to be true, and being persons of respectability, they are entitled to full credence.

Yours,

W. G. A.

CERTIFICATES.

1. *Bleeding Piles*.—This may certify that for more than 20 years past, I have been in a wretched state of health, having been afflicted with the piles, which, for the last nine years have been flooding all the time, thereby throwing me into a miserable condition. I have suffered during that time, a pain in the back and head, always attended with cold feet and hands; though I was constantly under the care of physicians, and took from them a great deal of medicine. Lately, I had experienced a total loss of appetite, and most of the time could take no nourishment. At this crisis my situation was alarming and almost hopeless; neither myself nor my friends expecting that I could long survive. But knowing that recently some *astonishing* cures

had been performed by the proprietor of the Mount Pleasant Infirmary at Dover, N. H., my spirits revived, and, though it was "hoping almost against hope," yet I resolved with my husband to go there and try the experiment of taking the Thomsonian medicine. Accordingly, on the 28th day of July last, he conveyed me to Dover, and left me under the care of Dr. Andrew Watkins. I had been there but 24 hours, when it was apparent that I was recovering; and in three days afterwards, the pains in my back and head were entirely removed, the piles and flooding gradually decreased, and my appetite revived. This day, I leave the Infirmary after a residence there of three weeks only, relieved of *all* of my complaints, fast increasing in flesh and strength, and with an excellent appetite. I have been attended for the last five years by six eminent (in their way) physicians of the old school; and during that time was daily declining in health. They cannot say therefore, nor others for them, that had I remained, I should have got well ultimately: instead of such happy result, I firmly believe, that had I continued to follow their directions, I should have long since slumbered in the grave.—Such was also the opinion of all who knew me, and witnessed the distressing condition into which I had been plunged by their withering poisons. Had Dr. Watkins administered to me his salutary and healing medicines at the commencement of my sickness, with the same attention as he has done since my being under his care, instead of my taking poisons from learned quacksalvers, I have no doubt that I always should have enjoyed good health, as I have a good constitution, and their remedies have contributed to impair it greatly. Much of our substance, yes, hundreds of dollars, have been wasted in compensating them for their fruitless attempts to restore me to health by their pestiferous drugs. Myself and husband cordially unite in thanking Doct. Watkins, for the services he has rendered me, and sincerely recommend all who are afflicted with any disease (for we believe through the Thomsonian treatment all curable complaints can be expelled from the human frame) to abandoned the old mode of practice and repair forthwith to Dr. Watkin's Infirmary, or to some other ones under the patronage of Dr. Samuel Thomson, where they will be restored to health unless they are past cure.

(Signed) JAMES AVERILL,

Dover, August } DOROTHY AVERILL, his wife,
19, 1837. } of Cape Nedick, York, Me.

2. *Pain in the side, &c.*—This certifies that I have been very much out of health for 3 or 4 years past, and was much of that time troubled with excruciating pains in my side and stomach. My food distressed me; I became very weak, and was unable to work at my trade (housewright). I applied to several gentlemen of the faculty for relief, but found none from them. I daily grew worse, and at last was reduced to the very brink of the grave. In this situation, in

Dec. 1836, I sought out Dr. Watkins, and went to his Infirmary, in Dover, and put myself under his care. While there, a respectable physician of the mineral school acquainted with me, hearing what came from my stomach while under the operation of Dr. Watkins's medicine, declared that I never could get well, being too far gone. He proved to be a false prophet, however, as I remained at the Infirmary only about three weeks, and left it in perfect health. Since that time, I have been able to work at my trade constantly. (Signed) JOHN CLARK.

Somersworth, Aug. 23. 1837.

3. *Bleeding at the Lungs, &c.*—In the Spring of the present year my health became very feeble; to remedy which, I was earnestly advised to repair to the Infirmary at Dover, N.H., but like many others, neglected so to do, though I had misgivings as to the propriety of thus procrastinating the performance of a solemn duty. On the 26th day of June last, I was attacked with internal bleeding (at the lungs) a most distressing and dangerous symptom, which reduced me to extreme weakness, and thereby precluded the possibility of my being conveyed to the establishment occupied by Dr. A. Watkins, however much I might have desired it. A gentleman of the regular faculty was instantly employed, who resorted to the fashionable practice of bleeding and cupping me, after which I was obliged to swallow his depletive remedies. I was allowed to eat but little food, and this mode of treatment altogether so exhausted my strength that I could not lie down, and became in consequence very miserable. Some of my friends, of whom there were several who knew from experience the salutary effects of Dr. Watkins's medicine and his great skill in administering it, *advised* and even *insisted* that I should send for him. Others through ignorance and prejudice opposed this course, and thus I was by conflicting opinions compelled to remain under the care of the faculty for a long time,—when being perfectly satisfied that I was growing weaker and that my dissolution was rapidly approaching, having not spoken above my breath for two days, and not being able to walk from my bed to my chair, myself and wife came to the resolution to send for Dr. Watkins. We did so. He came the next evening at 9 o'clock, and was with me but one hour when I felt much relieved. I felt comparatively strong and could converse in a loud tone of voice. At midnight I ate heartily of animal food, and when he left me, laid down, fell into a grateful and deep sleep, from which I was not roused till late the next morning, when I arose, dressed, ate a nourishing breakfast, took the medicine according to direction, rode out, and in three days from that time I went to Dover, and remained at the Infirmary two weeks, where I grew strong, gained 20 lbs. in flesh, have had no return of bleeding, and while writing this am in the possession of good health. (Signed) EDWARD WEARE,
Aug. 1837. Cape Nedick, York, Me.

EPITAPH

On a Doctor, who had been a Shoemaker.

Here lies the powder of a doctor's bones,
Which time hath pulverized between two stones;
Potions and pills in vain he mixed together,
His hide shrunk up a shrivelled piece of leather;
Death waxing warm, his heels one evening tapped,
And in his box, at last, his body capped!

CERTAIN CURE FOR THE DROPSY.—Take cinder from a Blacksmith's shop and beat it fine, sift it, to take out the coarse particles, mix the fine cinder in a pint of honey until it is stiff enough to lay on the point of a case knife, not hard like pills. Give the patient as much as will lay on the point of a case knife, three times a day, morning, noon, and at night. This mixture is very purgative and will cause the patient to discharge great quantities of water, both purgatively and by urine. The portion may be given according to the operation; if that appears to be too severe, give less, if it does not operate enough, give more and continue it until the swelling is gone.

The patient may eat any diet but milk, of which he should not taste of a drop, neither take any other kind of medicine while using the above. I have known several persons who were cured of that dreadful disease by using the above mixture, some of whom were so bad that the water oozed out of their feet and legs and left their tracks as they walked on the floor.

The editors of all the papers in the United States who wish to benefit mankind, will give the above an insertion in their respective papers—and I understand the above recipe will make its appearance in the almanacs of the Union.—[Kentucky Reporter.

[We have no disposition to dispute the utility of the above; but our opinion is, that the Thomsonian remedies would answer a better purpose.—ED. MAN.]

FAT SLUTS.—The Windham County Gazette after stating that some physicians have recommended that beds should lie unmade and exposed to the air during the day, as a means of partial purification, remarks: "Perhaps this is the reason why 'sluts,' who defer making their beds at such an early hour as Mrs. Prim would deem proper, are always so fat and hearty."

A father of an interesting family, residing near Detroit; not long since stopped the only newspaper which he had ever allowed himself or family, solely on the ground that he could not afford the expense! This man chews up fourteen dollars and sixty cents worth of tobacco every year.

Three skeletons have recently been discovered at Pompeii, supposed to be those of a man, his wife, and daughter, about to rush into the street with their valuables. On that of the young girl is a gold ring, and earrings, ornamented with pearls.

NOTICE.

The subscriber hereby gives public notice, that, owing to his other business, he has resigned the General Agency of Dr. Samuel Thomson, and all letters hereafter relating to the said Dr. Thomson's business, must be directed to him, or to his General Agent or Agents, whom he may hereafter appoint.

ABNER KNEELAND.

PARTICULAR NOTICE.

All persons indebted to me for books or medicines are requested hereafter to pay for the same to SAMUEL SMITH or JONAS W. CHAPMAN, who will transact business as my General Agents; and any persons who may wish to become Agents, can be appointed such on application to the abovenamed individuals, provided they bear the requisite qualifications.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

N. B.—E. LARABEE, of Baltimore, Md., is not an Agent of mine, nor do I furnish any of the medicines which he sells under my name. And further, I have reason to believe, that a very large portion of the impure medicine complained of in the letter of "B. W." published in the last Manual, dated "Edwardsville, Illinois," as well as a large portion of that vended in other parts of the south and west, is furnished by the abovenamed individual. Those who wish pure medicines, can obtain them of GODFREY MEYER & Co., of Baltimore, Md., who act under my authority.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, October 1, 1837.

Printers who receive the Manual in exchange, are requested to give the above notices an insertion, and we will reciprocate the favor.—[ED. MAN.]

EFFECT OF SEA WATER ON IRON.—Iron, after remaining a long while submerged in sea, is converted into plumbago. As an evidence of this change, M. Eudes Deslongchamps has lately presented to the Linnean society of Normandy some cannon balls taken from the bottom off Cape la Hogue, which were sunk with the ships under Admiral Tourville, in 1692. They did not at first sight appear to have undergone any change; but when examined, are found to have lost two thirds of their weight, and may be scraped or cut with a knife like black lead. They contain no remains of their original ferruginous qualities, and have not the least effect upon the loadstone or magnetic needle.

"Doctor," said B. to his medical adviser one day, "Is't there a disease called Shingles?" "Yes to be sure," replied Galen. "Then I've got it for certain," rejoined B. for the roof of my mouth is broken out in a dozen places."—Lowell Patriot.

An Irish quack doctor, who had invented a remedy for sore eyes, headed his advertisement, "Let every blind man look at this!"



